

County Record

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Sales tax increases lag inflation

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Cities in Orange County, along with the county, are seeing mostly increases in sales tax revenues, but not always enough to keep up with the rate of inflation.

The Texas Comptroller's Office has sent sales tax payments for January sales to the entities in March and statistics show most have an increase. The city of Pinehurst, though, is collecting less than in March last year and is down nearly \$65,000 in sales tax revenues during the first three months of 2022.

The U.S. Department of Labor in February announced the national rate of inflation is up 7.5 percent from last year, the largest increase since the 1980s.

The Texas Comptroller's Office reports that sales taxes collected for the state, cities, and special districts do not include taxes on gas and

diesel fuel. The state has a 20-cents-per-gallon tax on those fuels and the money is used solely for state highways, roads, and bridges. The fuel tax has not gone up since 1991.

The office said the federal fuel tax is 18.4 cents per gallon for gas and 24.4 cents per gallon for diesel. The federal fuel tax is also used for highways and transportation. The tax has not changed since 1993.

The sales tax is collected on items like furniture, clothing, motor vehicles, prepared foods and beverages, along with a number of other items. Groceries and medicines do not have sales taxes in Texas.

Orange County collects a sales tax of a half-cent per dollar rate. The cities, except for West Orange, have rates of one and a half cents per dollar. West Orange's rate is

SALES TAX Page 3A

Districts confront bus driver shortage

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Don Reese said he retired as Bridge City's transportation director a couple of years ago because, "I got tired of trying to keep bus drivers."

Then the retiree took a part-time job – as a Bridge City school bus driver.

"They needed some help," Reese explained. "It fits my retirement."

School districts all over the country are facing bus driver shortages.

On the same day Reese was interviewed, West Orange-Cove school district issued a release saying the district had 10 bus drivers on its

payroll and needed 10 more. WOC has approximately 2,500 students on four campuses and about 1,600 of them use district transportation to get to and from school daily, the release stated.

"The bus driver shortage means longer wait times for pickup or drop-offs because some buses have to do double and triple routes. In addition, UIL trips during route times put an added strain on bus transportation," the release explained.

Pay raises are one tool school boards are using to take on the problem.

"Districts across the re-

BUS DRIVER Page 2A

★ County Emergency Staffer Named 'Employee of the Month' ★



The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce has announced that Morgan Taylor, Employee Orange County Emergency Services, has been named March Employee of the Month. Pictured Left to Right: Maureen McAllister, Morgan Taylor, Michael Taylor, Lisa Taylor and Judge John Gothia.

World's Bar-B-Que Champions ORANGE COUNTY CREW WINS WORLD TITLE

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The Orange County team had practiced, consulted on a strategy, and was pumped to compete at NRG Park. The sweat, grease, smoke, and heat were rewarded. The Brew Crew Cookers has the best ribs in the world and the trophy to prove it.

The local group recently won first place ribs in the World's Bar-B-Que Championship at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. They placed sixth overall. Eric Nies, a founder of the team, said the group was only a couple of points from grand overall title.

If you are looking for some kind of special formula to competition barbecue, don't look for the obvious. The Brew Crew's secret is not in the sauce. "We come together as a team and collaborate,"



Orange County's Eric Nies, Tommy Martin and Cutter Brewer of the Brew Crew Cookers has the best ribs in the world and the trophy to prove it.

Nies said. That team work is magic for the meat.

The World's Bar-B-Que

Championship at the rodeo this year had nearly 250 competitors from all over the

world. Nies said the countries include Sweden, Japan, and England. Participants during the contest will stroll around with the rest of the crowd to visit other competitors and talk about the art of smoking.

"It's neat to see all the different cultures and all the different styles (of barbecue)," Nies said.

The public can buy tickets to attend the three-day barbecue cook-off, a festival that includes a carnival and live entertainment. Because the Brew Crew is from Orange County, the team likes to show off the border culture of Texas-Louisiana. Nies said the team likes to smoke a whole alligator and a whole big for the event.

The Brew Crew has been competing for several years and the Houston title is their most prestigious win. Nies

BREW CREW Page 3A

LCM joins other OC schools adding artificial turf

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

The most improved Orange County football team is getting an improved home-field.

Little Cypress-Mauriceville school board members voted to approve \$5 million in athletic facility improvements that include an artificial turf playing field, a new seven-lane track and new restrooms for the home side of Battlin' Bear Stadium.

A project schedule prepared for trustees shows that the football field will be ready in August, in time for

the 2022 football season.

Eric Peevey, LCM's athletic director and head football coach, guided the Bears to the fourth round of the 2021 playoffs and an 11-3 record which was a 10-win improvement in his first season at the helm.

He noted that LCM athletes had reached at least the second round of the playoff in all sports so far this school year.

"There's a lot of excitement in Bear Country right now, and my point is we want to be successful in everything," he said.

"This is one of the most

successful athletic years Little Cypress-Mauriceville has had in a long time."

An artificial turf playing field offers an all-weather practice and/or playing surface for all outdoor sports, band and drill teams and physical education classes.

"The biggest thing we deal with is the ability for teams to continue practicing through all types of weather," Peevey said. "When I coached at Crosby, our baseball and softball teams would use our turf football field to practice when their fields were muddy.

"As long as it's not light-

ning, we can go out and practice and play."

West Orange-Stark and Vidor put down artificial turf fields in 2019 and Bridge City is nearly complete with an installation that began in December.

"The only games we played on a grass field last year were our home games," Peevey said, "and two of those were played in torrential rain."

The athletic facility improvement project will have a fourth priority: a new scoreboard; then fencing and lights, drawing from that \$5M in maintenance tax notes.

The Texas Education Code allows school boards to issue maintenance tax notes as an allowable funding option for renovations and improvements of existing structures as long as the renovations do not involve new square footage or new locations.

Maintenance tax notes do not require a taxpayer election and this one shouldn't affect future tax rates, Peevey said.

"We're looking to update facilities to what's best for our students," the AD said. "And we're not having to raise taxes, or do a bond.

"I think any time you can

do that, the community will see that's always a positive."

The LCMCISD board voted 6-0 in a special meeting on Feb. 28 to go forward with a series of tax notes to be issued and paid for in seven annual installments.

Along with the tax notes for football, track and stadium renovations, the board approved the purchase of six new tennis courts from district reserves.

Board members' first act of business at the Feb. 28 meeting was to order 175 new band marching uniforms at a

ARTIFICIAL TURF Page 2A



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SEE OUR AD PAGE 1 SECTION B

Bus driver shortage From Page 1

gion have been implementing middle of the year pay increases to keep and attract bus drivers," Hollie Fregia, chief financial officer for Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district, said in a memo to her superintendent, Sherry Brister, and school board in early February.

The board responded by boosting beginning pay from \$15 per hour to \$18.25 per hour, with each driver guaranteed at least a 5.5-hour workday.

The pay boost filters down to experienced drivers, too.

A driver with five years' experience, earns \$19.50 an hour, a boost of \$1.73 per hour. Drivers with 11-23 years' experience earn from \$21.59 to \$27.36 per hour after February's move raised their hourly pay just under \$1 per hour.

"I'm blessed that we're staffed and not hurting, because every other district around us is hurting," said Bennie Huckabay, LCM's new transportation director.

"We've got a driver on every route and they come to work. It would be nice to have an extra two or three drivers, but we have two 'floaters' and they fill in when needed."

School bus drivers must have a CDL (commercial drivers license) and work a split shift that requires them to report early for routes, then be off until they deliver the students back to their stops at the end of the school day.

"There are many benefits to school bus driving: steady pay, benefits and a schedule

that allows plenty of daytime freedom," the WOC release stated.

"Driving a bus is an excellent income for a retiree looking for something to fill a few hours per day. We encourage retired drivers to come back and help us entice holders of CDLs in other industries to consider driving a school bus a few hours a day."

Orangefield's director of support services, Brian Ousley, reports his district has no current bus driver openings, but is anticipating the retirement this spring of at least two drivers.

"Then we'll be short again," he said.

Nationwide, the COVID pandemic of the last two years has upended school as we knew it and the uncertainty and fears added to a shortage of teachers and other school employees.

"The shortages started like two years before COVID," Orangefield's Ousley said.

Locally, plant expansions had already chipped away at the schools' bus driver rolls before COVID. National transportation companies such as Hotard Coaches hired by construction companies to ferry their workers to and from job sites lured away many Southeast Texas school bus drivers.

"Hotard and all those places pay more," Bridge City's Reese said.

As is currently the case with Reese coming out of retirement to drive a bus, it's been all hands on deck for most districts for a while.

"Even last year, we were

down four drivers," Ousley said. "We had everybody from coaches to administrators to support staff driving if they had a permit."

Huckabay arrived at LCM after spending 32 years in the transportation department for the Beaumont school district, having started as a driver.

Huckabay says LCM runs 18 routes a day, including three for special needs students. The district has a two-tier bell system, meaning the two district elementary schools start and end their school days earlier than the middle schools and high school.

The two-tier system allows districts to get double the use of their buses and drivers and separates the younger students from the older ones.

Huckabay pointed out that Beaumont, with 18,000 students enrolled, runs a three-tier system, allowing buses and drivers to run three pick-up routes in the morning and three drop-off runs.

Lamar State College Orange offers CDL training, as do other Lamar campuses in the area.

Reese trains drivers for other school districts through the Region 5 Education Support Center in Beaumont.

The WOC transportation department can be reached for more information at 409-882-5422. The number for the LCM transportation department is 409-670-4601. Call 409-735-1595 for Bridge City transportation, or 409-735-5337 for Orangefield transportation.

ing a contractor May 9.

Aug. 12 is the target date for substantial completion of the stadium minus track surfacing.

The substantial completion date for the tennis courts is Nov. 4, the substantial completion date for track surfacing is Dec. 21 and final completion date for the project is Dec. 30, 2022.

Lobbyists Who Are Characters

CARL PARKER
For The Record



Carl Parker has practiced law in Port Arthur since 1958. He 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.

by being his guests on a regular basis. On one morning I

It's very difficult to write about the state Legislature without including a few stories about lobbyists. Lobbyists represent various interests in the capitol and do their best to influence legislation in such a manner that it will benefit or not harm their client's interest. All kinds of people are lobbyists and all lobbyists have different methods of reaching members of the Legislature. Most are bonified characters and after 32 years in the Legislature I recall many and some in a humorous manner.

Bailey Jones was the lobbyist for El Paso Natural Gas. Bailey was an elderly gentleman, rotund and given to great humor. Bailey's method of lobbying and communicating with the legislative members was to place himself at the crack of dawn every morning at a large, round table in the Stephen F. Austin Hotel. It was well known among the legislators that anyone connected with the Legislature, even other lobbyists, were welcome to enjoy a free breakfast at Bailey's table.

Early in my career when the legislative allowance for food and lodging was \$12.00 a day, many of us availed ourselves of Bailey's largess

recall I had an early morning committee hearing and decided to pop in for a quick bite or coffee at Bailey's table. Because of my early morning appointment, I only had a cup of coffee. As I rose to leave, Bailey asked, "Young man, where are you going in such a rush?" I responded to Bailey in what I thought was a clever way, looked him in the eye and said, "Bailey, I'm going to the capitol to represent the people." Bailey's response was quick as he looked at me, smiled and said in a serious tone, "Go ahead, son, that's been tried before."

That was my first term. After serving several more years, it became apparent to me that Bailey's humorous comment probably had more truth in it than I realized at the time.

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Artificial turf From Page 1

cost of \$87,150.

On the agenda for the district's board meeting next Monday, March 21, is a maintenance tax note update.

The district has tabbed US Capital Advisors of Houston as its financial advisor for the project, with Beaumont law firm Creighton, Fox, Johnson and Mills its bond counsel.

CEI Solutions was named the district's athletic consultant. The Arkansas-based

company put down artificial turf baseball and softball fields at Bridge City, and football, baseball and softball fields at West Orange-Stark.

According to an LCM project timeline prepared March 4 for the March 21 meeting, CEI was to begin engineering March 10 and have plan documents complete by April 10, advertise for bids on construction beginning April 10, with the school board select-

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Brew Crew World Champion Barbeque

From Page 1



Eric Nies, a founder of the team, displays the World Championship trophy won at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

said the team designated Tommy Martin to go on the stage for the awards. It felt like a beauty pageant.

Nies said ten finalists were on the stage lined up as a stadium-size TV is showing the awards ceremony. Winners are announced beginning at the bottom. After the third and second places are named, Martin realizes something amazing is coming. A Facebook video shows the screams and jumping when Brew Crew is named the champion for ribs.

"It was one of the most exciting events of my life," Nies said.

"To you, this is just one day, to us this is 14 years. 14 years of hard work killing myself to put this on every year and it has finally paid off," Martin posted on Facebook after the win. He also praised the teamwork.

Even though the Bar-B-Que Championship is fun for the public, it's serious for the competitors. Nies said the first place came with a trophy only, no prize money. "It does solidify you in the barbecue competition world," he said. "People know who you are now."

Teams with big wins can get sponsorships from companies and corporations. Nies said some teams at the Houston competition had large "booths" resembling bars and had a variety of sponsors.

Texans take their barbecue seriously, even if it's in the backyard for a family get-together. But the Brew Crew and other teams in cook-offs compete. Nies said there's a strategy for choosing how to cook because the judges take only one bite. "You want something they're not used to," he said.

Brew Crew members besides Nies and Martin include Cutter Brewer, Jesse Romero, Shannon Buckley, Bennie Kroger, and Justin West. Nies said Brewer and Romero have been on the TV show "Master Chef." He said West and Kroger were brought onto the team because of their experience in competitions and knowledge of what judges look for. Judges check for things like presentation and the glaze on the ribs.

The team also added Craig Verhage, "The BBQ Ninja,"

because of his work with spices and seasonings.

Nies said he was introduced to competition barbecue through Ralph Caillier. When Nies was at Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School, he was dating the daughter of Jackie Caillier, a celebrated Cajun musician and the brother of Ralph. The Caillier family is a mainstay in the Cove neighborhood and operates Veteran's Grocery.

Nies said the Caillier family often gathered with friends to cook, eat, and play music. Ralph Caillier had a competition barbecue team called Double Barrel. The team would get sponsors to help pay for the meat and supplies. Nies began helping Double Barrel. He got some friends to form Brew Crew Cookers and about 20 years ago the Double Barrel team "passed the torch onto us," Nies said.

Nies said he has been working barbecue pits since he was in the sixth grade. He, Martin, and others decided to take the competition route seriously in 2008 and have been working the cook-offs for 14 years.

His barbecue expertise has led to a career. He owns and operates "Choppy's Barbecue" catering. Before the Covid pandemic, he opened a Choppy's Restaurant in Bridge City. But he learned running a restaurant takes more than good food.

"You need a full, dependable staff," he said. A restaurant operator also needs to have enough food on hand to feed 100 people even if only 15 come in. Plus, it's a lot of work. "Early, early mornings and late, late nights," he said.

He got the name Choppy because he likes to put smoked chopped meat into everything. Beans get chopped brisket; breakfast tacos get chopped brisket with the eggs. Even his Texas-style cheesy chicken spaghetti is made with smoked chicken.

Currently, he is working on a food truck to go with his catering business. A food truck will allow him to travel to serve large groups and give him flexibility in scheduling. After all, a member of the World's Champion barbecue team needs time to travel and get new trophies.

Orangefield Junior High students bring home UIL awards



Orangefield Junior High students competed in an Academic U.I.L. Meet at Mauriceville Middle School recently. The following students earned medals:

Mia Hernandez, 7th Grade Impromptu, 4th place, Will Rutledge, 6th Grade General Math, 3rd place, Catherine Crooks- 7th Grade General Math, 4th place, Dyllon Porter, 6th Grade Chess, 6th place, Avy Campbell, 7th Grade Chess, 4th place, Layton Williams, 7th Grade Chess, 4th place, Kolby Randall, 8th Grade Chess, 4th place, Raleigh Forse, 6th Grade Spelling, 4th place, Natalie Bickham- 6th Grade Music Memory, 4th place, Jade Sheppard, 6th Grade Social Studies, 5th place, Kale Spears, 7th Grade Social Studies, 6th place, Jackson Drodody, 8th Grade Social Studies, 3rd place Laykin Potter, 6th Grade Maps, Charts, and Graphs, 1st place, Peyton Vincent, 6th Grade Dictionary Skills, 3rd place, Montana Davis, 7th Grade Dictionary Skills, 3rd place, Lexi Baggett- 7th grade Modern Oratory, 2nd place, Jose Salinas, 7th grade Modern Oratory, 6th place, Hayden Clark, 7th Grade Listening Skills, 3rd place, Andy Rutledge, 6th grade Art, 6th place, Ally Montz, 8th grade Art, 3rd place, Brett Myrick, 8th grade Art, 4th place and Jordan Bass, 8th grade Art, 6th place.

Sales tax increases lag behind inflation

From Page 1

one and a fourth cent per dollar. Orange County Emergency Services District No. 3, which is for the Little Cypress Fire and Rescue Department, has a sales tax of one and a half cents per dollar. It is the only special district in the county that has a sales tax, which was approved by voters in the district several years ago.

The March payments covering January sales are:

Bridge City received \$153,880 for the month, a 4.48 percent increase from January last year. The city's total sales tax income for the

first three months is \$587,417, up 11.48 percent for the same period last year, putting the city at \$60,537 more for the year so far.

Orange is up \$302,000 in collections for the first three months. The payment in March was \$607,720, a 24.62 percent increase from January sales last year. So far in 2022, the city has collected \$1.984 million, a 17.95 percent increase from last year.

Pinehurst received \$44,826 for the month, a decrease of 27.56 percent from the January taxes last year. The city is down \$65,000 for collections

in the first three months compared to 2021. The year-to-date collection is \$116,711.

Vidor's monthly payment was \$260,000, a 4.64 percent increase from sales in January last year. The city has \$42,830 more in sales tax income for the year to date with a total this year so far at \$900,562, an increase of 3.78 percent.

West Orange is down slightly, \$970, for the payment this month, which is \$95,485, a decrease of 0.69 percent. The city so far this year has collected a total of

\$360,781 in sales taxes, an increase of \$18,104, or 5.28 percent.

Orange County received a monthly payment of \$499,933 in March, an increase of 9.65 percent from last year. The county now has \$133,000 more collected for the year to date with a total of \$1.83 million, an increase of 7.81 percent.

OC ESD 3 collected \$22,100 in March, an increase of \$2,870, and is now at \$70,711 for the year to date, which is down \$12,357 from last year.

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15 Years Ago-2007

Cal Broussard's mom, Ms. Gladys, is in Baptist Orange after falling in her home and hitting her head. She suffered memory problems but didn't forget that she used to smoke. She's on the upswing and will be admitted to the Meadows as soon as she's released. ****Meanwhile, Pete Runnels mom, Inez, is in the same hospital with a broken hip. That's her second time to pull that trick. She's doing as well as expected. ****In ICU at Baptist Orange is Constable Parker Thompson. P.T. was doing really well, had been working and had put on some weight. P.T. sure has had a hard time shaking this illness. ****H.D. Pate is having to get his knee redone. His last knee jerker didn't work, the pain only got worse. ****Orange County's Clay Walker recorded a duet, 'Until the Next Tear-drop Falls,' with Freddy Fender before he died in October. Clay even sings in Spanish on the record. ****Britt Godwin of Bridge City, who was on the road 11 years with Tracy Byrd, another Orange County native, will be performing at the Charlie Pruitt Show Saturday at the Holiday Inn Atrium Plaza in Beaumont. I don't know of any big star that is a better singer than Britt. None are as versatile as he is either. Just a great voice, singing anything from Frank Sinatra to Roger Miller. He's a great and talented guy. Charlie had heart surgery with four bi-passes. ****Mary and Don Stanton attended the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo where Alan Jackson was headliner. Mary says the show was good but they were more impressed with the quality of the rodeo performers. The rodeo had good stock and great cowboys. Mary is like a kid when it comes to fireworks and they put on two big displays the night they attended. ****Speaking of good 'Salt-of-the-Earth' folks, Bobby Shugart, who is working a 7-12 shutdown, says companies are complaining about not having enough skilled labor. What they forget, Bobby, is that their great, wise man, President Ronald Reagan, did everything he could to bust every union in the country so companies could pick up pipe-fitter, boiler-makers and other craft workers off the street corner and pay them half wages. ****Fats Domino is homesick for his New Orleans, Ninth Ward, home, the place of his birth in 1928. The home is being totally restored thanks to funds raised by Willie Nelson and other artists. ****The 49th annual 'World's Largest Rattlesnake Roundup,' in Sweetwater, drew over 25,000 participants and beat last year's record of 13,500 pounds of reptile meat. A parade, snake charmer and snake demonstrations were held as well as plenty of rattlesnake to eat, cooked in a variety of ways. ****St. Mary Church in Orange will hold its St. Joseph Altar Sunday at noon, March 18. Those Catholic women do such a great job. ****Speaking of Catholics, Dr. Chris Penning serves as Deacon at St. Henry's in Bridge City. Five years of schooling goes into becoming a Deacon. Everyone likes Dr. Penning and he's a darn good physician also. ****The coal miner's daughter is now Dr. Loretta Lynn after receiving a doctorate of music from Boston's Berklee College.

20 Years Ago-2002

Burgess is toasted and roasted at Bridge City. Friends and colleagues poked good-natured fun at Ninth Court of Appeals Judge Don Burgess at the Chamber's ninth celebrity annual roast. Sue Ball and Sen. Carl Parker told of helping Burgess get his first judgeship. Sue said she went to Austin to lobby Gov. Dolph Briscoe to appoint Burgess to the 268th District Court. He was a law partner of H.D. Pate at the time and the Governor was reluctant to appoint him because he owned an eighth interest in a racehorse. Judge Buddie Hahn, who succeeded Burgess as 260th Court judge, told about Don's Albert's Inn days. As an assistant district attorney he had long side burns, a beard, long hair, wore a Willie Nelson hat and went by the nickname of "Yosemite Sam." It was hard for Don to prosecute drunks because he didn't think it was a crime. Chief Justice Ron Walker zeroed in on Don's golf game. "He brings two dozen balls and has to borrow some by the 18th hole," Walker said. ****Michael Gentry stepped up to replace Robert Montagne as superintendent of Orangefield School District. He has spent 33 years in education, 27 at Orangefield. He climbed the latter from teacher, principal and assistant superintendent. His appointment will be official March 25. ****Shannon and Thelma Messer celebrate their 60th anniversary March 14. They have six children, Karen Meaux, Judge Benfield, Becky Picard, Sharon Henry, Thelma Swearingen and Dr. Mark Messer. ****Peter Cloeren, Sr., 85, died Friday, March 8. He was founder of Cloeren INC. ****Eddie Ruppert, 84, died March 9. ****More than 55 coaches have applied for the Athletic Director and Head Football Coaches job at Bridge City. ****It was a lively Lunch Bunch gathering at the Golden Corral last week. Johnny Montagne and "Cochise" attended, Commissioner John Dubose, chaired the gathering. It was also revealed that Sharon Bearden's very first date was with Janice Gauthier Menard. Any Orange High boy took his life in his hands dating a Cove girl, picking her up and dropping her off was risky.

40 Years Ago-1982

Hal Wray named Citizen of the Year by the Opportunity Valley News. ****Roy Wingate claimed Ed Lovelace is the best salesman in the country. He sold an Orangefield man two milking machines and the guy just owned one cow. Ed took a mortgage on the cow as collateral on the machines. ****Bobby Hoosier is in John Sealy Burn Unit with burns on 85 percent of his body. He was caught in an oil rig fire in the Gulf and jumped 100 feet into the water. He was a human torch. He is listed in critical condition. (Editor's note: After a long haul, Bobby recovered, moved to California, raised a family, and has done quite well. His parents Tonker and Frances have since passed away.) ****Max Windham is named new manager of Perry Brothers. He replaces Jesse Brooks, who recently passed away. ****Corky Harmon will celebrate another birthday on March 18. ****Lani Hall will turn 8-years-old on March 16. ****Terri Swift has another one on St. Pat's Day, March 17. ****Jackie Harmon celebrates his day March 13. ****Donathon Matthew Johnson, is a 13-year-old preacher. It is claimed that he could read the Bible at age two but couldn't read anything else. Donny is guest preacher at many area churches in the Triangle and as far as Marshall, Leesville, and Oklahoma State Prison. He recently returned from preaching in Columbus, Ohio. He has a radio show on KOGT. (Editor's note: I wonder what became of him and if he stayed in preaching. He would be 58 today.) ****Bridge City High School picks royalty. Kim Daniels voted Most Beautiful; Andy Morgan, Most Handsome; Liz Venable and Jim Shaw, Most Likely to Succeed; Cindy Adams and Craig Fisette, Friendliest. ****Former Orange County resident, Lewis Lemoine, who is now residing in New Or-

leans, will soon return to area. He has purchased a home in Bridge City. Lewis is married to the former Mildred Gauthier, sister of Charles Gauthier and Janice Menard. The Lemoines have five children who they refer to as the 'Five J's.' Their names are Jody, Jada, Jana, Jude, and June. (Editor's note: Lewis, Mildred and Janice have since passed away.) ****Mrs. A.J. Lapeyrolerie celebrates a birthday March 18. What a great lady.

45 Years Ago-1977

Uncle Jim McKay celebrates his 92nd birthday March 10. (Editor's note: Uncle Jim would be 127 today. He lived to be 101.) ****Phyllis Dunn's mom and dad, Amy and Whitney Oubre, celebrate their 47th wedding anniversary March 10. ****Bridge City's first mayor, P.M. "Red" Wood, seeks a fourth term. ****Bobby Hoosier, son of Frances and Tonka Hoosier, is in John Sealy Burn Unit after surviving an oil well fire in the Gulf of Mexico. He is considered in critical condition. (Editor's note: Bobby made it and then moved to California about 40 years ago. ****Dan Bray was rescued after two days stranded in the marsh with no food. A fishing trip he will never forget.

HAPPENINGS

Our friend, former mayor, county commissioner, John Dubose, suffered a heart attack two weeks ago on Thursday. While inserting a stint through his groin all hell broke loose and he nearly bled out. He's home and due to have another stint to correct an 80% blockage. Not sure he wants to do the groin thing again.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks we know celebrating birthdays in the next few days. March 16: Amy Peveto, Chelsea Coleman, Blaine Slaughter, Buffy Doiron, Jordan Doiron, Karli Anderson and Cody Edwards all celebrate on this day. ****March 17: St. Patrick's Day is celebrated today. Also celebrating are Luke McFarlane, Sally Wingard, Stephanie Hughes, Ty Moreland and Josh Sims. This is also the day The Opportunity Valley News was started in 1971. ****March 18: Chlor Maelynn Jackson will turn 19 today. She's our friend Patti Hanks' granddaughter, Geraldine Cherry, Beth Shepherd, and Tammy Stark have birthdays on this day. ****March 19: Celebrating today are Courtinie Campbell, Roman Carpenter and Brandy Mayo. ****March 20: Dana Young, Jan Savage, Keely Benefield, Kamela Latiolais and Brittany Backer are a year older today. ****March 21: Donny Harmon, Johnny Dillion, Pam Nugent, Kyle Anderson, Tanya Simon and Lisa Roberts have birthdays on this day. ****March 22: Kyle Leyendecker Wanda Taylor, Carroll Kile and Carsen Carpenter celebrate. HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ALL.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

March 16: Actors Erik Estrada, 73; Victor Garber, 73; Lauren Graham, 55. ****March 17: Actors Rob Lowe, 58; Kurt Russell, 71; Gary Sinise, 67. ****March 18: Pop Singer Adam Levine, 43; Show Host Mike Rowe, 60; Actors Queen Latifah, 52 and Vanessa Williams, 59. ****March 19: Country Singer Carrie Underwood, 39; Actors Sharon Stone, 64; Jon Hamm, 51. ****March 20: Director Spike Lee, 65; Actor David Thewlis, 59. ****March 21: Actors Scott Eastwood, 36; Matthew Broderick, 60; Gary Oldman, 64. ****March 22: Football Player J.J. Watt, 33; Actors Reese Witherspoon, 46 and William Shatner, 91.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

A Texas National Guard member, one of 10,000 on the border, was sitting in the shade of a mesquite tree south of McAllen when asked about his duties. His response, "It's all political theater. We sit here, away from home, family and jobs, just watching the grass grow." National Guard members are not allowed to arrest anyone. They just watch for an illegal crossing the river and shout to a border patrol office, "There's one, right over yonder near the barn."

WHITE NATIONALISTS FOR PUTIN

Russia's invasion and killing in Ukraine has galvanized the world against Vladimir Putin but not Americans Marjorie Taylor Green, Paul Gosar, Tucker Carlson and Donald Trump. They call Putin savvy, very smart and Donald even calls Putin a genius.

CAJUN DEFINITION

File (fee-lay), ground Sassafras leaves used to season gumbo and other dishes. In Louisiana leaves are gathered in October by spreading white sheets on the ground. It is said that the leaves come from female trees that have white roots. The male has red roots, which root beer and sarsaparilla, etc. is made from.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Joe Robicheaux was having some bad luck and a hard time him. His wife, Eula Mae, suggest that maybe he should turn to God and go to church.

He said, "I'll try dat me."
He went to Brother Gaspard's church. The Rev. Gaspard him, preach a fire and brim stone sermon. Den he axe, "Anybody dat got a problem to come to da front."

Joe him, he do dat.
Brother Gaspard axe, "What's you problem?"
Joe say, "It's my hearing."

The Reverend put one hand on Joe's head and his finger in Joe's ear. He preach and axe the Lord to drive da devil out. Da congregation joined in da worship. After a few minutes Rev. Gaspard remove his hand from Joe's head and took his finger out of his ear. Den he axe Joe, "How's your hearing?"

Joe anser, "I don't know me, it's not until next week at da courthouse."

C'EST TOUT

If you didn't read this column closely, you missed something. I've had it and am out of here. Thanks for your time and for making us Orange County's best-read newspaper. Till next time, Take care and God bless.



From The Creaux's Nest

OUR POPULARITY GROWS

Over the last few weeks we have had increased demand for more papers. We increased our circulation last week by 800 more County and Penny Records at some of our drop locations. The popularity of the publications could be from a full staff of writers for the first time in a long time. Margaret Toal, longtime newspaper reporter, former editor of the Leader, and a noted feature writer, is now retired but will devote some of her time to feature writing on a weekly basis. Dan Perrine, longtime professional journalist is a big plus in covering high school sports and being active with timely news on our website. They are joined by Joe Kazmar, who has been The Record's featured sports columnist for over 40 years. His last week's life's highway type column was one of his best. He tracked his baseball career all the way back from playing pitch and catch with his dad to winning the Little League World Championship and four successful award winning years at McNeese. Kaz's Korner, if you like sports, is always a good read. Capt. Chuck Uzzle, for 20 odd years, brings us the best in fishing and hunting. Losing Dickie Colburn last year was a tremendous loss. He was well known for his fishing column. We miss him and so does the fishing world. Dave Rogers is a real pro, a newsman who keeps us all informed about what's going on in the county. There is no better reporter in the entire area. To round out the entertainment part of The Record, there's Sherlock Breaux and Creaux, Tommy Mann who keeps us informed about the entertainment in the area, who is performing from Lake Charles to Beaumont and in between. From time to time Roy will run a Down Life's Hwy. column that has won several Press awards through the years. Home-girl Penny LeLeux, who has success with directing short movies, often brings us special feature stories. All in all, it's due to this staff of talented writers, well versed in the history of Orange County, that make these publications so popular. We write about the homefolks and we thank you for your loyal readership. ****Time to go on. Please come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME
10 Years Ago-2012

The Republican Primary candidate Mitt Romney just can't close the deal. He's tried saying, y'all and eating steaming grits and still the best he could do in Alabama, Mississippi is a split showing. Maybe he should have tried eating liver and onions on the grits. I bet he doesn't know what liver is. He's running against a former senator who was defeated in his own state by 18 points and driven out of office. Another opponent is a long ago has-been that was driven out of office by his own party. Also running for the nomination is a 76-year old congressman who has a far out agenda. Yet Mitt W. Romney can't get over 50 percent of the votes in any contest. He'll end up with the nomination; he has too much money and the Republican establishment to lose. If the race drags on at its present rate, splitting the delegates, it will possibly go all the way to Texas May 29. At this time Santorum has a 30-point in the Texas polls. The speculation is that by November unemployment will be eight percent or below, making up most of the eight million jobs lost under the Bush Administration. Gas prices will fall below \$3. It would be easy to ease gas prices if the congress went along. Just eliminate Federal taxes on every gallon of gas. Get the oil companies to cut profits 40 cents to 50 cents per gallon, instead of making \$11 billion a quarter; they'll only make \$9 billion. ****Leroy "Lee" Brown, 78, passed away Friday, March 8. Service was held Tuesday at Community Church. I first met Lee 50 years ago when he and wife Dorothy moved to Orange to establish a hearing aid business. Pioneering a business from the ground up is not always easy. Times were often difficult for Lee and Dorothy but they worked at it. I recall when Bill Cunningham ran the office while Lee handled outside sales. Lee found the Lord and spent the rest of his life honoring his Maker. His business grew and today, Brown Hearing Centers are successful and respected for their quality merchandise and outstanding service. For some time now the company has been operated by family members. Lee was a good man. ****The Justice Department rightfully declined on Monday to give clearance to Senate Bill 1400. The grounds requirements would place an undue burden on voters, many who don't possess state issued identification. The bill would have suppressed voter participation. In the past, only five fraud cases per year have been filed. It would have disenfranchised many of the poor and elderly and minorities. Texas is among 15 states controlled by Republicans asking that photo ID be required. (Editor's note: The new Texas voter laws of today surpass those laws. Should be a crime. **** A big surprise last week was Pat Robertson, evangelical leader, former presidential candidate and voice of the Right Wing, endorsing legalizing marijuana. Robertson said, "I really believe we should treat marijuana the way we treat beverage alcohol." He continued, "This war on drugs just hasn't succeeded. I believe in working with hearts of people and not locking them up."

Carrie Woliver book signing March 20 in Orange

Staff Report
For The Record

What is it like for two young Americans to move to Europe in the 70's?

The public is invited to learn the answer on Sunday, March 20, 2:00-4:00 pm, at the Orange Train Depot, 1210 Green Avenue, when author Carrie Joiner Woliver will be signing her new book, "Vive la Brussels! – Living the European Way."

Event is being sponsored by the Friends of the Orange Depot and the Orange Community Players. Fee of \$10 will include a signed copy of the book, proceeds of which will be donated to the Orange Train Depot. Refreshments will be provided and guests are encouraged to take time to meet and greet in the attractive, historical venue.

Copies of Woliver's first book, "The Train Stopped in Orange," will also be



Carrie Woliver

available, though in limited supply. She is the founder, along with her husband, Ron, of the Friends of the Orange Depot, formed in 2014, to help restore and maintain the train depot. Being a unique and handsome venue, the depot is available for special events for modest fees, which go towards maintenance of the 1910 building. Plans for future exhibits and improvements to the museum grounds are ongoing.

For more information, consult the website, orangetxdepot.org, or call depot manager, Rose Simar, 409-330-1576.

Deaths & Memorials

Rodney Davis Lund, 89, Orangefield

Rodney David Lund, 89, left this life wrapped in the arms of his loving wife Pat and went to Jesus loving arms on March 14, 2022.



Rodney Lund

Funeral services will be 11:00 a.m., Monday, March 21, 2022, at First Baptist Church of Orangefield. Officiating will be Ed Rawls. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Oange.

Visitation will be 10:00 a.m., Monday, at First Baptist Church of Orangefield.

Born in Escanaba, Mississippi, on August 22, 1932, he was the son of Elrich and Angeline Lund. Rodney was an ordained deacon of the Baptist faith, and a faithful member of First Baptist Church, Orangefield for more than 50 years. He was a veteran of the United States Navy and served during the Korean conflict. Rodney was retired for twenty-five years from being a meat cutter for forty-three years. He was a square dance caller with several local clubs and was the director of the Rainbow Steppers exhibition group he and Pat started.

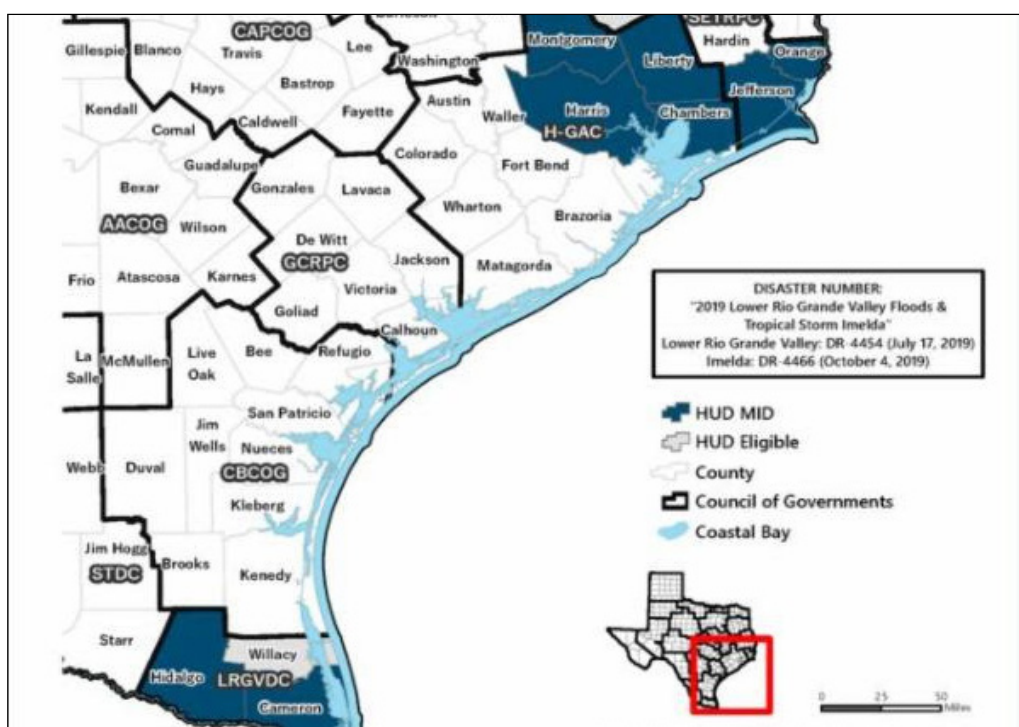
He was preceded in death by his parents, sister, Phyllis Brody and brother-in-law Ervin Brody, nephew Joe Brody, his father and mother-in-law Chester and Ruth Polley, grandparents the Dubords and the Lunds and many aunts and uncles.

Rodney was a loving husband and best

friend to his wife Pat. They had 41 wonderful years together. He was a wonderful father to his children. There were no step children in his eyes. Left to cherish his memory are Taunya Turner, Waylon David Lund, Randy Spurlock and wife Sandra, Pam Wilson and Ted Spurlock and wife Patricia, and son-in-law, Rocky Wilson, he was Poppy to Carrie Wilson, Chris spurlock and fiancé Kristina, Sarah Allison Spurlock, Diego

Robledo and wife Sarah, and PaPa to Scott Turner and his wife and children Erin Turner Kirk and husband James. Great-grandchildren, Jack, Ariel, Luke and Julia Kirk, Magnus DeGennaro, Graham Robledo and Eloise Robledo. He also leaves behind nieces, Susan Perrin and husband Chris, their children Kelsie, Keaton, and Javian and Bette Brody Kasch and husband Bryan, and their son Eric. Nephews Bill Brody and wife Joselyn and Jimmy Brody and wife Lois, sister-in-law Verna Davidson, nephews Matthew Davidson and Greg Davidson and many other friends and family members. He also leaves his best friend that he grew up with, Joe LaFave and his wife Dorothy. Joe was the brother Rodney never had. Rodney was a friend to all and never met a stranger.

He always had a smile for everyone and never saw the bad in anyone. He will be missed by his family and all who knew him.



More than \$81 million in disaster recovery funds for infrastructure projects to help Texas communities recover from the 2018 South Texas Floods, Tropical Storm Imelda.

Texas GLO opens application for 2018-19 infrastructure grant competition

Staff Report
For The Record

AUSTIN — The Texas General Land Office (GLO) announced the opening of the application process for more than \$81 million in disaster recovery funds for infrastructure projects to help Texas communities recover from the 2018 South Texas Floods, Tropical Storm Imelda and the 2019 Lower Rio Grande Valley Flood. The GLO is administering the funds allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) through the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program.

Based on the funding allocated by HUD for disasters in each of the two years, \$19.69 million is available for the 2018 South Texas Floods Infrastructure Competition and \$61.43 million is available for the 2019 Disasters Infrastructure Competition. HUD designated a total of 10 counties eligible, with Hidalgo, Cameron and Jim Wells counties qualifying for 2018 funding and Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy, Chambers, Harris, Jefferson, Liberty, Montgomery, Orange and San Jacinto counties qualifying for 2019

funds. The competitions are open to cities and counties located in the eligible areas.

Each applicant may submit a total of two (2) applications, whether applying as the lone applicant or jointly with another jurisdiction(s). Each application must have a total proposed cost between \$250,000 to \$1 million. All activities must contribute to the long-term recovery and restoration of housing. The GLO recognizes that as part of a comprehensive long-term recovery program, the repair and enhancements of local infrastructure are crucial components. Infrastructure activities are vital not only for the long-term recovery and restoration of housing but for the long-term recovery and viability of communities.

Applications are due at 5:00 pm on August 1, 2022. All applications must be completed through the GLO online portal for the 2018 South Texas Floods Infrastructure Competition or 2019 Disasters Infrastructure Competition, which are linked. More detail can be found in the 2018 South Texas Floods and 2019 Disasters CDBG-DR Infrastructure Competition Application Guide found on the webpages.

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Orange County Church Directory

You Don't Have to Suffer Alone

Vaneetha Rendall Risner
Regular Contributor
desiringGod.org

"You are not alone."
Just hearing those words when we're in pain can cause a subtle shift within us, moving us toward hope where we had seen only despair. Suffering can be one of the loneliest experiences, separating us from people we love and, at times, from a sense of God's nearness. We long for presence — both the presence of God, who draws near in our pain, and the presence of others who can minister his grace. Yet sometimes it's hard to find or experience either.

Sunday After He Left

Though I'd been part of the local church for decades, I didn't want to go to church the Sunday after my husband left. I was convinced it would be painful and awkward. Most people didn't know what had happened, and I wasn't sure what I would say. Afraid that I'd break down in tears, I wanted to pull the covers over my head and not face anyone. Nothing felt safe. But after wrestling in bed, I finally got up and drove to church with my daughters, praying that God would meet us there.

Some friends were waiting for us in the back. They had saved seats for us. I was relieved we wouldn't be sitting alone. As we stood for the first hymn and began to hear our voices harmonize with those around us, I felt a strange swell of emotion. We were part of a community, and even though our world had collapsed, there were people around us who would

hold us up. I still remember leaving encouraged that day, thankful that I had been worshiping in God's house, hearing God's word, surrounded by God's people.

I couldn't have known when I walked through the doors that Sunday how much I would rely on those people in the coming years.

With Me in the Fire

It was in the church where I felt nurtured and known. Hearing God's word preached every Sunday grounded me, reminding me of the truths I needed as anchors. I remember a particular sermon on the story of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in Daniel 3. My pastor pointed out, vividly and memorably, that God is with us in the fire. He emphasized our witness in trials and how people can see our faithfulness and God's sufficiency in our weaknesses. I needed to hear, again and again throughout Scripture, that God will never leave or forsake us.

In those long, hard days, I also heard truth from friends and people in my small group who individually encouraged me, prayed with me, and wept with me as they pointed me to Jesus. It was through their faithfulness that I experienced firsthand the church as the body of Christ, redeemed people who love, serve, and sacrifice for each other. Their love came in many forms — providing for our practical needs, sharing testimonies of how God had met them in their own grief, and reminding me of truth when I was tempted to doubt.

"When I wondered how I could go on, the church car-

ried me, reassuring me that I was not alone."

The response from our church was overwhelming — people fixed our computers, brought our family meals, and even changed light bulbs in our house. Families invited us to dinner, reminding us that we were part of a larger community that was going to support us. Several times, a small group gathered in my home to pray, lamenting with me through a psalm and crying out for God to fill our physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

What If the Church Hurt Us?

Though I was nurtured and loved by my local church, I do know others who have been hurt by fellow Christians in the wake of suffering, feeling unknown and uncared for in their pain. For some, members of the church showed up right away, but then the support quickly evaporated and they were left to grieve on their own. Others have felt judged or minimized as people have sought to fix them rather than mourn with them. They have left the church disillusioned, discouraged, and disappointed. Their experience in church has seemed to only intensify their loneliness, rather than lessen it.

So how do suffering people move forward when we have been let down by the church? While everyone's situation is unique, and there is no universal answer, God has chosen the church as the place where his children heal, serve, and grow. In his manifold wisdom, God makes himself known through the church (Ephesians 3:10). The

church is the body of Christ, his hands and feet in the world. When one member suffers, all suffer together (1 Corinthians 12:26).

When we already feel weak and wounded, it takes courage to tell others, especially in the church, how they have hurt us. As we bravely move forward, we can pray that God would direct us, help us overlook or forgive when appropriate, and give us wisdom on what actions to take next. In some circumstances, we may deem it wise to leave our local church and look for another, but God will never call us to leave the church altogether. It is one of his greatest means of grace in our lives, and all the more so in suffering.

Do We Really Need Church?

The inevitable questions arise: Why do we need the local church in suffering? Why is it worth finding one where we can belong and trust? Why can't we just do this on our own?

We need the local church in our suffering because, without it, we might become hardened by the deceitfulness of sin (Hebrews 3:13). When our suffering lingers, and our prayers seemingly go unanswered, we may begin to wonder if God cares — if he can really be trusted. Our fears may feel greater than our faith. When that happens, we can lean into the faith of the saints around us and let them carry us (Hebrews 10:24-25). We can entrust them to pray for us when we have no words ourselves. And we can rest knowing that even if we stumble and fall, someone

will be there to pick us up and help us find our strength in God.

In his book Embodied Hope, Kelly Kapic reminds us, "The saints speak to God for us when we struggle to believe and speak alone. Further, the saints are called to speak to us for God when we seem unable to hear him on our own. Their prayers sustain our faith; their proclamation reignites our hope."

As we share our suffering with those in the church, we not only allow them to minister hope to us, but we also minister to them through our pain.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4)

When we hide our wounds and weaknesses, we not only distance ourselves from others, but we also subtly reinforce the lie that the Christian life promises continuous victory, pain-free bodies, and material prosperity. Letting our brothers and sisters in Christ into that sacred space of our suffering, shar-

ing our failures and weakness, our pain and our despair, brings a rare closeness that reminds us all that we are not alone.

Suffering can be one of the loneliest experiences, making us feel estranged and isolated from our friends, from our community, and from God. Yet paradoxically, as we let the church minister to us in our pain, leaning into God and into our friends, letting them carry us when we are weak, we often will find a deeper intimacy than we have ever known. God himself whispers to us, through Scripture and through fellow believers, that we are beloved, seen, and known, even in the valley.

Vaneetha Rendall Risner is the author of Walking Through Fire: A Memoir of Loss and Redemption. Vaneetha and her husband Joel live in Raleigh, NC, where she writes at her website, encouraging readers to turn to Christ in their pain.

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Deweyville First United Methodist Church
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Pastor: Kelly Sharpton
Email: lks454@aol.com

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cowboychurchfororange.com
Youth Bible Studies & Activities Wed 6:30 p.m.

Harvest Chapel A Full Gospel Church
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Wednesday Night Service: 6 p.m.
Pastor: Ruth Burch

Starlight Church of God in Christ
2800 Bob Hall Road • Orange • 886-4366
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Wednesday Schedule 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting
Youth & Children's Activities
Pastor: Keith Royal

Winfree Baptist Church
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OC baseball, softball teams begin district action

OC SPORTS BEAT
DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The tournaments are over and district play started this week for the local high school baseball teams. The girls are a week ahead of the boys as the district softball games began on Tuesday, March 8 and continue to be played this week.

The Bridge City Lady Cardinals have started strong winning their first two district games. The opener was against West Orange-Stark,

and the Lady Cardinals' Kaydence Corkran was the starting pitcher shutting out the Lady Mustangs 20-0 for Bridge City.

The Lady Cardinals were solid in all facets of the game. Corkran of course yielded no runs, the Bridge City fielders committed no errors, and the Lady Cardinals collected 12 hits while scoring twenty runs.

The second district game was much tougher for Bridge City. The game was scheduled to be played Friday, March 11, at Little Cypress-

Mauriceville, but intermittent rain caused the contest to be moved to the artificial turf in Bridge City which is more playable in wet conditions.

Coach Raven Harris called on her ace pitcher Carson Fall to start in the circle for the Lady Cardinals. Fall responded with a stellar effort striking out 16 Lady Bears winning the game 4-1. "That kid is something special. She shows up every single game. She does what she needs to do, and she's just the real deal. She's going to produce

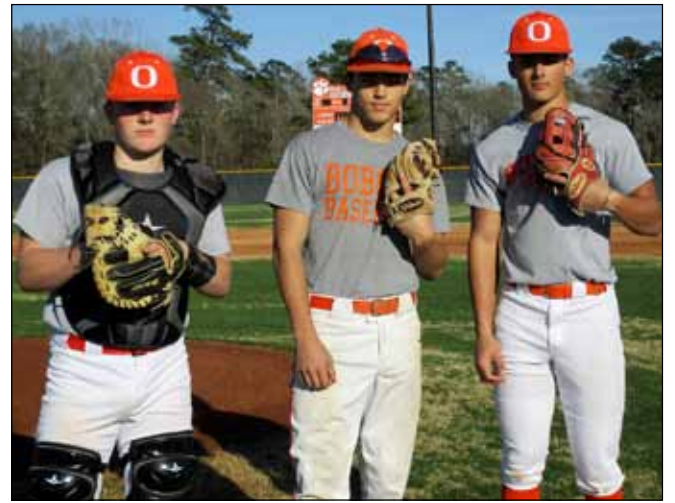
and she's going to throw strikes, and we battled behind her today so that was very positive," Harris praised.

Bridge City scored a run in the first inning and then added three more in the second. Lexi Nugier started the

OCBASEBALL Page 2B

Macy Marze, Tyler Shearin, and Kameryn Henderson have helped the Orangefield Bobcats go undefeated heading into district action.

RECORD PHOTO:
Dan Perrine



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OC baseball, softball begins district action From Page 1B

rally with a single. She was sacrificed to second before a base hit by Brooklyn Drodody put two Lady Cardinals in scoring position.

Both Nugier and Drodody scored on an LCM error. Haley Munoz who reached on the error later scored the third run of the inning on a single by Kaylyn Dosch.

Fall retired the first eight Lady Bears she faced before Rhylan Wilson singled. LCM scored its only run in the fourth inning as Keylie Washburn doubled off the left field fence with two outs and scored when Ava Wright followed with a double just inside the right field line.

In the sixth inning the Lady Bears threatened by loading the bases on a single by Jacelyn Cook and walks to Washburn and Wright. Fall bore down and struck out the next two LCM batters to spoil the potential rally.

Cami Shugart for the Lady Bears pitched well in the loss holding the Lady Cardinals scoreless over the last four innings. She faced just twelve batters in that span.

Little Cypress-Mauriceville beat the Silsbee Lady Tiger 8-6 in their district opener on Tuesday, March 8. Shugart got the win in the circle with seven innings pitched. She walked four, struck out 11, and gave up five hits. Only four of the Lady Tigers' runs were earned.

The Lady Bears' offense was led by the freshman duo of Lexis Moss and Keylie Washburn. Moss started things off with a two-out solo homerun in the first inning and then Washburn followed suit with her own solo homer.

Lexis went 3 for 4 with two RBIs. Keylie slapped three hits contributing three runs driven in.

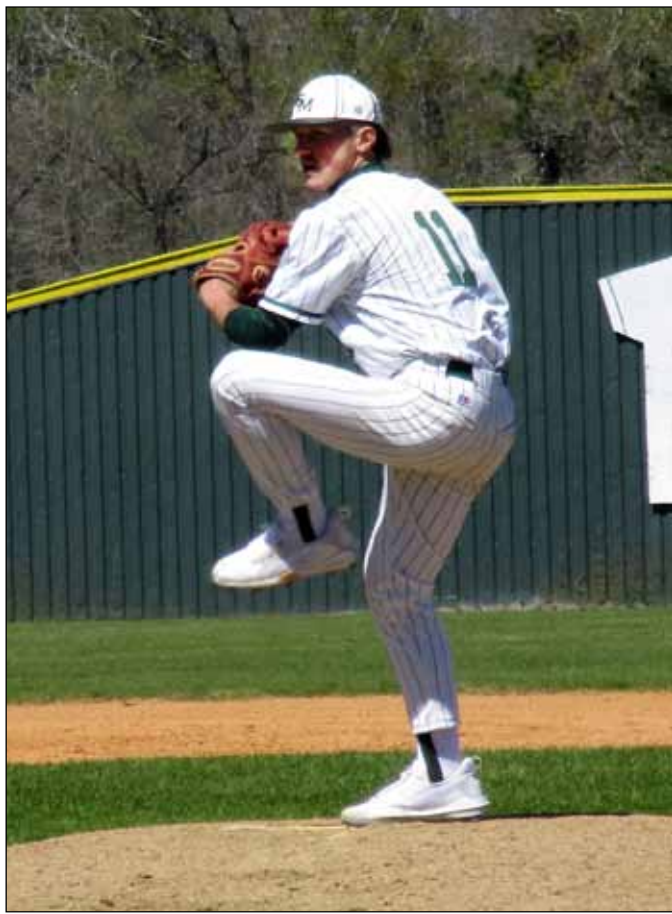
Other Lady Bears who contributed were Shugart, Ava Wright, Jacelyn Cook, Ella Stephenson, and Rhylan Wilson each rapping one hit in the game. All together the LCM had 11 hits for the night.

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats defeated the Vidor Lady Pirates on March 8 by a score of 10-5 to open district play. Sophomore pitcher Abigail Curphey finished the night going the distance and giving up just three hits. Curphey surrendered no earned runs while registering seven strikeouts.

Sophomore Abby Broussard led the Lady Bobcat offense with three hits, and five RBIs. Harleigh Rawls had three hits including a triple. Rawls drove in one run and scored three times.

Curphey had two hits, two walks, and an RBI. Senior Madison Hughes had two RBIs, and two runs scored with her two hits. Senior Joli Ponfick had a hit with a run scored. Sophomore Greenlea Oldham had a run scored.

The Lady Bobcats improved to 13-8 on the year.



Reid Peco made his first appearance of the season for the LCM Bears and pitched well against Hemphill. **RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine**

They were 1-0 in district play after a bye on Friday, March 11.

The season started slow for the West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs with eight straight losses. Their last ten non-district games the Lady Mustangs played much better winning seven of those games including the last five in a row. West Orange-Stark had a team batting average of .309, an on-base percentage of .502, and stole 80 bases in 14 games.

The leading Lady Mustang hitters were Rayven Gales and Paris Overstreet both batting .500 or better during the non-district. Ariel Farris and T'Era Garrett hit one homerun to go with their high batting averages. Laila Rhodes and Farris were the top base stealers with 12 apiece. Katie Hogg has been a big run producer for WOS with 7 runs batted in.

The district games for the West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs got off on a bad note with the loss to Bridge City. That game was followed up by a loss to the Lumberton Lady Raiders on Friday. Garrett hit her second homerun of the season for the Lady Mustangs in the second district game.

Games on Tuesday, March 15, included the Lady Bobcats playing against Silsbee, the Lady Cardinals hosting the Vidor Lady Pirates, and the Lady Bears traveling to Lumberton. LCM will host the Lady Mustangs on Wednesday instead of the normal Friday schedule.

Another key district game will be the Lady Bobcats playing their big rivals the Lady Cardinals on Friday, March 18, in Orangefield. Lady Bobcat Coach Rebekah Ragsdale previewed the contest. "Any time you've got anything with Bridge City and Orangefield there's al-

ways a little bit more on the line. They've got Carson Fall, so you know the task that's going to be at hand and the challenge you're going to have. The key is making sure we get the ball in play somehow," Ragsdale replied.

In baseball Little Cypress Mauriceville co-hosted the Orange Classic Tournament with West Orange-Stark on March 10-12. The Bears and the Mustangs played games at Don Gibbens Field and Ronnie Anderson Park respectfully against five visiting schools.

The Vidor Pirates also played the other five teams in the tournament but did not play either LCM or WOS. Those three teams are all in the same district.

The Bears got fine pitching and hitting performances from freshman Marco Bandiero as they beat Hampshire-Fannett 5-3 on Thursday. Bandiero struck out eight Longhorns and went two for three with the bat including an RBI double in the fifth when LCM scored two runs.

Later that day Little Cypress-Mauriceville got two great pitching efforts in a 4-3 win over the Shepherd Pirates. Starter Gage Griffith pitched four innings and got the win. Brice Frenzel provided outstanding relief

striking out three straight Pirates with the bases loaded.

Dean Reynolds threw a third superb game for the Bears on Friday. Reynolds gave up one unearned run and hit the game winning sacrifice fly to score Ashton Landry as LCM beat the Beaumont Kelly Bulldogs 2-1.

The Bear bats made some noise in the final two games when they bombed the Big Sandy Wildcats 16-7 and the Hemphill Hornets 12-3. More good news for LCM was the return of Reid Peco to the lineup in the Hemphill game. Peco pitched three innings and then finished the game at third base.

Coach Hunter Hagler believes his Bears are playing well with the start of the district schedule this week. "I think we're starting to click, we're starting to do all the little things right, and getting where we need to go. It's all about competing, playing

together, and winning ball games," Hagler announced.

West Orange-Stark lost all of its games played over the weekend in the tournament. The Mustangs are still looking for their first win of the season.

The final game provided some optimism for the Mustang cause. Grayson Gregory pitched a complete game for the Mustangs. Gregory struck out six batters and only two of the runs he allowed were earned. The Hampshire-Fannett Longhorns won the game 6-1 scoring all of their runs in the second inning.

The hitting star for the Mustangs was Andrew Wilson. He singled in the fourth to drive in Darren Anderson for the Mustangs' only run and then singled again in the sixth inning.

The Orangefield Bobcats remained undefeated on the season heading into district play this week. The Bobcats competed in the Silsbee Tournament over this past weekend.

Trent Eaves was brilliant

on the hill on Thursday. Eaves threw five innings for his second no-hitter of the young season striking out ten and walking one to lead Orangefield past the Evadale Rebels 11-0.

The Bobcats tallied seven hits in the game. Eaves and Kameryn Henderson both collected multiple hits for Orangefield. Caleb Fregia tore up the base paths with two stolen bases.

Jason Bodin shut down the Warren Warriors throwing a complete game shutout and leading Orangefield to a 10-0 victory also on Thursday. Bodin allowed one hit over six innings striking out 12.

Kyle Michael singled and scored in the first inning for the Bobcats. Orangefield notched five runs in the seventh inning led by Michael, Bodin, Brennon Lecoq, Rusten Traxler, and Brayden Babin all driving in runs that inning.

The Bobcats totaled 13 hits and stole seven bases in the game. Michael, Caleb

OC BASEBALL Page 4B

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Houston's Watson, other top QBS headline new NFL season

KAZ'S KORNER
Joe Kazmar
For The Record



Joe Kazmar

Today (March 16) officially marks the beginning of the 2022 National Football League season, enabling teams to sign the free agents they have pursued since last month and to officially get the signature on new contracts or trades that were agreed upon verbally or with a handshake in the last few weeks.

Last week was a busy one for three franchise quarterbacks who either agreed to a new contract, the dollar figures from a verbal trade or—in the Houston Texans' case—a grand jury's no-bill to criminal charges.

What I'm referring to is the blockbuster trade by the Seattle Seahawks, getting rid of their franchise quarterback Russell Wilson to the Denver Broncos, the decision of Aaron Rodgers to remain with the Green Bay Packers and the dropping of criminal charges on Deshaun Watson, to the delight of the Texans who now have a real good chance of making a blockbuster trade of their own.

Seattle's head coach Pete Carroll needs to refurbish his Seahawks, but at 71 years of age, he doesn't want to spend the three or four years it generally takes to rebuild and get the new players into the right positions and the team again winning consistently.

According to the NFL Network last week, the Seahawks agreed to send Wilson and a fourth-round draft pick to Denver in exchange for two first-round picks, two second-round picks and a fifth rounder, plus the Broncos' starting quarterback Drew Lock, defensive end Shelby Harris and tight end Noah Fant, Denver's first-round draft pick in 2019.

NFL Network also reported that the 38-year-old Rodgers had agreed to a four-year, \$200 million deal that includes \$153 million in guaranteed money. On the same day the Packers placed the franchise tag on Rodgers' favorite receiver Davante Adams for \$20 million, unless he signs a long-term deal before July 15.

But the big news as far as Southeast Texas NFL fans are concerned, is the dismissal of Watson's criminal charges by the Harris County Grand Jury. Several closest to his situation believe Watson will be able to settle all of those pending civil lawsuits with cash offers.

This should make some of those teams pursuing the talented quarterback willing to make a trade offer to Texans' general manager Nick Caserio that would make both the Texans and Watson happy. There's specula-



Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson

tion the trade will be done long before the NFL draft on April 28. It could possibly happen later this week.

"Any quarterback-needy teams that said they weren't interested were lying," a former NFL general manager told the Houston Chronicle in its Sunday edition. "Now that serious charges are off the table, they will come and come hard."

"This is an unprecedented situation that could make a GM's career," he continued. "Years from now, everyone could be calling this the trade of the century. I'm not exaggerating."

Seattle, Philadelphia, Carolina, New Orleans and Minnesota are some of the teams in need of a franchise quarterback like Watson. The biggest blockade for a trade could very well be a lengthy suspension for Watson's violation of the NFL's personal conduct policy, although he did sit out the entire 2021 season, but with pay.

But the Texans' best quarterback must relent on the no-trade clause in his contract with only Miami on his trade list. Since then, the Dolphins report they have zero interest in Watson and are happy with quarterback Tua Tagovailoa going into his third season.

The 26-year-old Watson enters the first year of his four-year, \$156 million extension that included a \$27 million signing bonus that was amortized at \$5.4 million a year over the life of the contract, according to Saturday's Chronicle.

The team trading for Watson would assume his base salary of \$35 million this year, \$37 million in 2023, \$32 million in 2024 and \$32 million in 2025, but the trade would free up \$24.2 million under the Texans' salary

cap and enable them to pick up some good—but pricey—free agents.

Pittsburgh needs a quarterback after the retirement of Ben Roethlisberger. Coach Mike Tomlin hired Brian Flores as an assistant recently, who was a driving force behind Miami's interest in Watson last season.

I believe the Steelers are the sleeper in this Watson trade scenario because of the presence of Flores and the additional salary cap space that became available with Roethlisberger's retirement.

KWICKIES...

Now that the 99-day lockout of players by Major League Baseball is over, teams have begun spring training and former Houston Astros' shortstop Carlos Correa can resume fishing for his record-breaking contract that he believes he's worth. His best deal so far was when the Astros offered him a five-year, \$180 million contract that is still on the table. A player already on a "measly" \$25 million pact for this season—Justin Verlander—requires the 39-year-old fireballer to pitch 130 innings after his Tommy John surgery to trigger the \$25 million option for 2023. If he doesn't throw the 130 innings, his deal is for only one year. The Astros begin their Grapefruit League schedule Friday against the St. Louis Cardinals in Jupiter.

After holding out for nearly half a century, the National League is finally going to use a full-time designated hitter for the 2022 MLB season. They experimented with it during the shortened 2020 season and must have liked it. The DH will eliminate the automatic out when the pitcher came to bat and probably will reduce the sacrifice bunt dramatically.

It didn't take long for Tom Brady to decide he still wants to play football and announced last weekend that he's returning to Tampa Bay for the 2022 NFL season. And just like that—the Buccaneers' odds for winning the Super Bowl jumped from 20-1 to 10-1 overnight. "I've realized my place is still on the field and not in the stands," Brady told the media Sunday. "I'm coming back for my 23rd season in Tampa."

The Dallas Cowboys traded unhappy wide receiver Amari Cooper to the Cleveland Browns and immediately signed wideout Michael Gallup to a five-year, \$62.5 million contract extension plus a \$10 million signing bonus. The Browns will use Cooper to fill the void left when Odell Beckham forced his release last fall and Gallup will replace Cooper as the No. 1 passing target.

I was saddened to hear about the death of Ed Roddy, 91, of Port Arthur. Ed was instrumental in forming the Golden Triangle's Connie Mack League back in the late 1960's and served as president of the league. I was manager of the butt-kicking team in Orange that everyone feared.

Texas A&M, Oklahoma, Dayton and SMU are the No. 1 seeds in this year's 32-team field National Invitational Tournament (NIT).

Jordan Davis, Georgia's 6-6, 341-pound defensive tackle, created perhaps the biggest buzz at the scouting combine by running the 40-yard dash in 4.78 seconds last week. It was the best time since 2003 of any players weighing more than 310 pounds, according to Next Gen Stats.

It was no big surprise when Tiger Woods was inducted into the World Golf Hall of

KAZ'S KORNER Page 4B

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The Bears rallied from an early deficit to defeat the Hemphill Hornets 12-3. Ashton Landry scores for LCM. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

OC baseball, softball From Page 2B

Fregia, Kameryn Henderson, and Lecoq all collected multiple hits for Orangefield.

Tyler Shearin had a busy day at the plate on Saturday, smacking four hits in the Bobcats' 12-2 victory over the Tarkington Longhorns. Shearin tripled in the first, singled in the second, doubled in the fifth, and singled in the seventh.

The offensive onslaught by Orangefield was led by Caleb Fregia, Macoy Marze, and Shearin all sending Bobcat runners across the plate.

Cooper Longron was the winning pitcher for Orangefield. The lefthander went five innings, allowing two runs on three hits and striking out eight. Kolbie Sowell threw two innings in relief out of the bullpen. Sowell also went deep in the sixth inning for his first homerun of the year.

The Bobcats collected 15 hits on the day. Shearin, Marze, and Kameryn Henderson each had multiple hits for Orangefield. Shearin went 4-for-5 at the plate to lead Orangefield in hits. The Bobcats tore up the base paths again with Shearin leading the way with three stolen bases.

The Bobcats finished their pre-district schedule with a record of 11 wins, no losses, and one tie. District play for Orangefield began this week

Kaz's Korner

From Page 3B

Fame last week. He didn't say anything about his 82 victories on the PGA Tour or his 15 majors or his eight surgeries he endured along the way, but talked about how his parents took out a second mortgage that allowed him to play the junior circuit in California.

The NCAA Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments began this week with four regional divisions each. The men's bracket has seven teams from the Lone Star State—Texas, Texas Tech, Baylor, Houston, TCU, Texas Southern and Texas A&M—Corpus Christi—while the Women's bracket has five—Incarnate Word, Stephen F. Austin, Texas-Arlington, Baylor and Texas. If someone held a gun to my head and demanded I tell them the 2022 winners I'd blurt out Arizona in the men's and South Carolina in the women's.

JUST BETWEEN US...

I may be the only person in Southeast Texas who is not shedding one tear because Marco Born has resigned as Lamar University's athletic director, but he got off on the wrong foot with me when he fired the two softball coaches 10 minutes after getting off the plane that brought him here. He seemed to enjoy firing coaches during his tenure that ended when he took his "sabbatical" a few months ago. Not many athletic directors return after taking one of those. I wish the next place he lands all the luck in the world—because it will certainly need it!!!

More than one 'right way'

OUTDOORS Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

You ever wonder what a 64 pack of Crayola crayons, 31 flavors of ice cream at Baskin Robbins, or bags of assorted candy have in common? The answer is they offer something for everyone because we all don't have the same taste.

If everyone did things exactly like everyone else then life would be ridiculously boring and mundane. It's choices and options that give each individual the opportunity to succeed and sometimes those options and choices are a little different than what some people consider to be the best or only way to go about things. Taking a quick glance at the calendar right now means different things to different people, especially fishermen. If you flip through the pages of

Texas fishing magazines or look at the internet fishing sites it won't be hard to figure out what the prevailing thought on most people's minds is this month, its big trout. More often than not its pursuing big trout while wade fishing and throwing artificial lures. I'll be one of the first to raise my hand and say "I'm all for that". I will, on the other hand, also be one of the first to say "that's not the only way to catch those big fish" and that's where choices and options come in to play.

One year I was at one the

fishing shows standing around with a group of guides and tournament anglers having a great conversation and swapping

stories on various subjects and inevitably the style or different methods of fishing became the topic. I listened intently and heard basically the same story over and over of how this group of anglers spent their time on the water. After several

stories it was more than apparent that these guys took it for granted that everyone fished exactly like they did and the thought that someone wouldn't was just borderline blasphemy. I can understand why they would think like this, especially when all the other fishermen they routinely hung out with did the same things they did. I can remember the look on their faces when I told them "you realize you are a very small fraction of the fishing population and 10 times as many people fish differently than you do". It was a Kodak moment to say the least. I invited them to go to their local sporting goods store and watch other fishermen to see what they buy. Contrary to their beliefs there would way more folks buying terminal tackle, cast nets, and "fresh dead" shrimp than ultra high end gear.

The percentage of anglers who exclusively hunt trophy

fish with the latest gear pales in comparison to Joe Public who just goes out to get a bite and maybe catch supper. Just a little something to think about.

Now, regardless of which end of the spectrum you may reside at there are some outstanding options for you to choose from in order to catch both numbers of fish and better quality fish. For many folks the thought of climbing out of a sleek bay boat to wade a pristine flat in search of that career fish is about as close to perfect as one can imagine. Yes, there will be plenty of good fish

caught by waders during this time of the year and there will also be plenty of pages and print dedicated to that method as well. For others the thought of crawling out of a perfectly good boat into cold water is about as foreign as ordering a bologna sandwich at a south Texas BBQ house. It doesn't make any sense but for some it's what they like.

For myself I can honestly say I enjoy both fishing out of the boat and staying in, makes me no difference as long as I'm fishing. However, I must admit that in my career on the water I have been fortunate enough to put me hands on several true 30 inch speckled trout and every one of them was caught while the angler was still in the boat. Perhaps that's because here on Sabine and Calcasieu we tend to spend a little more

UZZLE Page 5B

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ORANGE COUNTY

Orange County Citrus: Recognizing Greening and Canker Disease

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Hopefully, our recent warmer weather didn't lull any fellow gardeners into believing spring had arrived in Southeast Texas. March weather patterns are unpredictable, quickly changing from warm day time temperatures to frigid nighttime temperatures within a short period. Dramatic temperature swings can make even the most seasoned gardeners cringe, while determining when to plant annuals, perennial flowers, and vegetables (as I too, almost planted tomato and pepper plants this past weekend). Both heat-loving plants would suffer severe damage or worse, succumb to cold temperatures but I digress. This week's subject Asian Citrus Greening and Citrus Canker, is part one of a two-part series, recognizing two citrus diseases.

There are numerous plant diseases which can attack citrus trees, most notably two of them are Asian citrus greening and citrus canker. The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and US Department of Agriculture (USDA) have put forth considerable resources and effort to control the spread of both these devastating diseases. Texas counties where the diseases have appeared are quarantined and a few of the counties nearest our geographical area are Harris, Montgomery, Galveston, Brazoria, and Fort Bend. Home-grown citrus located within quarantine areas must be consumed within the local area and home-grown citrus trees cannot be

transported outside of the quarantined area.

Commercial citrus enterprises, web-based retailers, and "mom and pop" roadside vendors within the State of Texas must be able to prove they are following Federal and State quarantine guidelines. Before buying citrus trees gardeners need to ask questions of the seller. Make certain the seller is following Federal and State guidelines before purchasing citrus trees and that the citrus is not from a quarantined zone. Citrus Greening is a bacterial disease caused by a bacterium, known as *Candidatus Liberibacter Asiaticus*, which is vectored (carried) by the Asian citrus psyllid (ACP). It is also known as the yellow dragon disease, found worldwide, and confirmed in Louisiana 2008 and Texas 2014. Unfortunately, there is no cure for this disease. While the disease poses no threat to humans or animals, it has devastated millions of acres of citrus production around the world, including in the United States.

Citrus trees infected by citrus greening may have the Asian citrus psyllid. The adult insect is about the size of a toothpick tip (about 3mm or 1/8 inch) with a distinctive 45-degree angled posture when present on leaves. The ACP nymphs are yellow orange in color, smaller, and feed on new growth, leaving behind a waxy fluid. Once a tree is infected with the bacteria, the tree can remain without detectable symptoms for months or years. During this symptomless phase, the tree can serve as a source of bacteria to infect other trees. Leaves will become yellowed, blotchy, or



Asian Citrus green lop-sided fruit.

mottled, and may have raised veins with a corky appearance. Fruit will have a bitter taste though it poses no health issue for humans. Further, fruit might be stunted, or lopsided while remaining green or partially green. And will sometimes fall away from the tree prematurely.

As there is no cure for Asian Citrus Greening, and prevention is the best approach to managing following these guidelines:

- Do not purchase or transport plants, fruit, budwood, rootstock, seedlings, or budded trees from quarantined areas.
- Purchase certified plants from Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA)-certified citrus growers and nurseries.
- Sound sanitation practices are paramount to reduce potential disease spread. Practice general cleanliness by using alcohol-based sanitizers, bleach solution, or antibacterial soap solutions to decontaminate equipment and tools which will reduce the risks associated with human or mechanical trans-

mission of the diseases.

- Remove and destroy diseased plants to eliminate potential bacteria for future infections.

- Closely monitor nearby citrus plants. If new infections appear, act swiftly. TDA regulations require disposal of infected tree and plant material by incineration or bagging and burying it at least 2 feet deep at a municipal landfill.

Plant protection chemicals which contain copper can help prevent infection. These products reduce risks but do not stop the disease from occurring or cure affected trees. Application timing is critical to provide protection, since new, growing tissues are the most susceptible to infection. Multiple applications will be needed to ensure proper coverage on the plant. Proper chemical use and rates are available on the product labels. Read application directions and follow instructions before applying any chemical control agent.

Our recent weather patterns have been true to form

for Southeast Texas, warm one day and frigid the next. Hopefully, these topsy-turvy patterns will calm down and each of us will be able to do what we enjoy most—Gardening of course! Hello gardening friends, here is to hoping spring is here to stay and with it warmer weather (because I can't keep up-potting my tomato and pepper plants started from seeds, as I'm running out of room inside). This is the second installment of a two-part series recognizing Asian Citrus Greening and Citrus Canker. Last week, part one examined Asian Citrus Greening. This week we will examine characteristics of citrus canker.

There are multiple diseases which can affect citrus trees, but two diseases are particularly devastating: Asian Citrus Greening and Citrus Canker. Both diseases are currently in Texas and other states along the Gulf Coast, South Carolina and the Los Angeles area are also included.

Citrus Canker is an incurable bacterial disease which causes lesions on citrus fruit, stems and leaves. The bacterial disease isn't harmful to humans, but it is highly contagious. The disease spreads rapidly by wind-driven rain, equipment, and people who can transmit the infection on their hands, clothing or by handling infected plants or plant parts (fruit, leaves or stems). Citrus canker is spread long distances by movement of infected plants or plant parts including nursery trees and propagation material (budwood, rootstock seedlings and budded trees). Severe weather events, hurricanes, easily

spread Citrus Canker long distances. Unfortunately, the bacteria can survive up to 10 months in lesions on living citrus plants and there is no cure for this disease.

The pathogen thrives in our moist, warm conditions entering the host plant via leaf pores or wounds, caused by insects, such as those caused by leaf miners. Within a short period of time, about seven to ten days from entering the plant, a pinpoint lesion becomes visible. The lesion appears as a raised "blemish" and affects both leaf surfaces, though mainly on the underside. The blemish develops a yellow halo and a water-soaked margin, which becomes corky and crateriform, with a raised margin and sunken center. Leaf lesions are usually about 1/16 – 1/8 inch across. Leaves and young green stems are highly susceptible and vulnerable to the infection. Trees can survive for long periods with diseased plant tissues, which cause discoloration of the bark.

As there is no cure for Citrus Canker, prevention is the best approach to managing both. Do not purchase plants, or budded trees from quarantined areas. Purchase certified plants by buying plants from Texas Department of Agriculture-certified citrus growers and nurseries. Use good sanitation practices to reduce potential disease spread. Practice general cleanliness and use alcohol-based sanitizers, bleach solution, and antibacterial soap solutions to decontaminate equipment and tools thus reducing the risks associated with human and mechanical transmission of the diseases.

Uzzle From Page 4B

time in water that's too deep to wade unlike other venues down the coast. The early spring is a fantastic time to locate those better fish in a little deeper water outside of the shallow flats. We spend much of our time in 4 to 6 feet of water making really long drifts that are usually parallel to structure or the shoreline. Often times we are in even deeper water as we probe the breaks along the Sabine River and ICW

where some magnum trout and redfish stage up and avoid any traffic or pressure.

Making the most out of water that's too deep to wade requires a certain set of skills, tools and a little bit of thought. Perhaps the most important is good electronics and the ability to read them. Finding and interpreting bottom structure is an art that pays big dividends to those who understand how to do it. For years I've

watched 2 of the best, Dickie Colburn and Johnny Cormier, take skills they learned locating fish on freshwater lakes early in their careers and apply them to fishing in saltwater. Subtle changes in depth or bottom contour can make all the difference and these guys certainly know how to find them. Once you locate an area that has all the right ingredients it's important to be able to stay put or control your drift. A quality

trolling motor is a must, that goes without saying. Having the ability to hold your location with either a manual anchor, Power Pole, Talon, or some sort of stake out is another factor to be considered. Once you get on a drift and locate fish it's much better to be able to sit in one position and see if there are more in the area rather than continue on the drift and come back to try and locate the same fish a second time. Many people are often surprised at how many more bites they are able to get in

an area if they just take time to stop and thoroughly check it out.

Speaking of stopping, that's what a lot more boats will be doing now that Joe Biden and his liberal agenda have helped push gas towards the 5 dollar a gallon threshold. In one of Biden's first acts as president he torpedoed the oil and gas industry starting with the Keystone pipeline as well as others. Now instead of being energy independent the USA is at the mercy of foreign countries for oil and that is a ma-

JOR factor for record high prices at the pump. The offshore anglers will really feel a pain in the pocketbook as the thought of fueling up for extended trips diminishes with every move this administration makes. There will be plenty of folks who start fishing closer to home and running less because of the high prices, that will be a given. By the time this administration is done we may all be paddling our boats instead using motors, only time will tell.

CONNECTING ORANGE COUNTY

CONNECTED NATION

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission (SETRPC) is partnering with local community leaders with a common mission of improving and expanding broadband access, adoption and use throughout the county. Your participation in the broadband survey and overall support of this effort is very important in developing an accurate assessment of broadband availability and related needs in Orange County.

TAKE THE SURVEY
myconnectedcommunity.org/orange-county

For more information:
Orange County EDC
123 S. 6th Street
Orange, TX
409.883.7770

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CONNECTING ORANGE COUNTY

CONNECTED NATION

La Comisión de Planificación Regional del Sureste de Texas (SETRPC) se está asociando con líderes de la comunidad local con la misión común de mejorar y expandir el acceso, la adopción y el uso de banda ancha en todo el condado. Su participación en la encuesta de banda ancha adecuada y el apoyo general a nuestros esfuerzos son muy importantes para desarrollar una evaluación precisa de la disponibilidad de banda ancha y las necesidades relacionadas en el Condado de Orange.

TOMAR LA ENCUESTA
myconnectedcommunity.org/orange-county

Para más información:
EDC del Condado de Orange
123 S. 6th Street,
Orange TX
409 883 7770

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 Note: Offices Closed On Wednesday

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Yard Sale at 2803 35th St. in Pinehurst this Friday, 3/18 and Sat. 3/19 from 8 am to 4 pm. Contents of old house, wardrobe, chairs, old doors, shutters, dryer, other collectibles and lots of stuff. To a good home,

PETS

fenced yard. Someone who is caring, loving and mostly patient. 2 female dogs that were abandoned, approx. 2 yrs old, 1 brindle and 1 white. Please help them, 409-882-9320 or 409-313-4914.

EVERYONE READS THE RECORD ONLINE & IN PRINT WEEKLY!

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **KAREN YOVONNE STEVENS**, Deceased, were issued on **MARCH 11, 2022**, in Cause No. **P19313**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **David James Stevens**. 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.

David James Stevens
 c/o: **Stephen C. Howard**
Attorney at Law
 903 W. Green Avenue
 Orange, Texas 77630

DATED the 14th day of March, 2022.

Stephen Howard
 Stephen Howard
 Attorney for:
 David James Stevens
 State Bar No.:10079400
 903 W. Green Avenue
 Orange, TX 77630
 Phone: (409)883-0202
 Fax: (409)883-0209
 Email: steve@stephenhoward.lawyer

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **JAMES MATTHEW PETER HUGHES**, Deceased, were issued on **MARCH 9, 2022**, in Cause No. **P19320**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Theresa Marie Hughes Blankinship**. 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.

Theresa Marie Hughes Blankinship
 c/o: **Stephen C. Howard**
Attorney at Law
 903 W. Green Avenue
 Orange, Texas 77630

DATED the 14th day of March, 2022.

Stephen Howard
 Stephen Howard
 Attorney for:
 Theresa Marie Hughes Blankinship
 State Bar No.:10079400
 903 W. Green Avenue
 Orange, TX 77630
 Phone: (409)883-0202
 Fax: (409)883-0209
 Email: steve@stephenhoward.lawyer

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **JAMES S. DONNAUD**, Deceased, were issued on the **MARCH 9, 2022**, in Cause No. **P19310**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Charles Walker Donnaud**.

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: **Tommy Gunn**
Attorney at Law
 202 S. Border Street
 Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 9th day of March, 2022.

Tommy Gunn
 Tommy Gunn

Attorney for:
 Charles Walker Donnaud
 State Bar No.:
 08623700 202
 S. Border Street
 Orange, TX 77630
 Phone: (409)882-9990
 Fax: (409)882-0613
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DOMESTIC CITATION BY PUBLICATION/PC - CDVPCWD

THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: Unknwn Father, 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 KRISANA BROOKE ANTHONY and CALVIN CALEB ANTHONY, Petitioners, was filed in the 260th District Court of Orange County, Texas on the 21st day of January, 2022, against Unknwn Father, numbered 220051-D and entitled In the Interest of A Child. The suit requests Termination and Adoption of Stepchild.

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

Ezra Lee Mahoney 01-23-2021 Galveston, 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 4, 2022.

VICKIE EDGERLY, District Clerk
 Orange County, Texas
Vickie Edgerly

DOMESTIC CITATION BY PUBLICATION/PC - CDVPPCWD

THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: Elliott John Slaten, 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 LEIGH ANN SLATEN, Petitioner, was filed in the 163RD District Court of Orange County, Texas on the 17th day of February, 2022, against Elliott John Slaten, numbered 220116-D and entitled IN THE MATTER OF THE MARRAIGE OF Leigh Ann Slaten and Elliott John Slaten. The suit requests Original Petition For Divorce.

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

Harleigh Marie Bonin 02/04/2017 Galveston, 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 8th, 2022.

VICKIE EDGERLY, District Clerk
 Orange County, Texas
Vickie Edgerly

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas
 To any and all Unknown Heirs and all Persons Interested in the Estate of

IDELLA MENDOZA, Deceased
 Cause No. P19309
 in County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP in this estate on JANUARY 10, 2022, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of IDELLA MENDOZA, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

The court may act on this application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse, 801 W. Division., Orange, Texas 77630.

All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before this Honorable Court by filing a written contest or answer to this Application should they desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention or response in writing with the County Clerk of Orange County, Texas.

Given under my hand and the seal of the County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas at the office of the Orange County Clerk in Orange, Texas on January 11, 2022.

BRANDY ROBERTSON,
 County Clerk, Orange County, Texas
 By: *Angelique Cook*, Deputy
 Angelique Cook

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