

County Record

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Phelan beats Covey by 366 votes



Dade Phelan



David Covey

Orange and Jasper counties, plus part of Jefferson County. Covey lives in Mauriceville and Phelan lives in Beaumont.

Jefferson County sent Phelan to the victory with 6,536 votes compared to 3,391 for Covey.

Jasper County also went with Covey as he drew 3,214 votes there with Phelan getting 1,271.

The Texas Tribune reports the 366-vote margin is within the amount that allows Covey to ask for a recount.

Orange County has 55,192 registered voters and all but the 918 who voted in the Democratic primary in March were eligible to vote in the runoff race.

Covey was challenging

Phelan for the Texas House of Representatives seat in the Republican primary runoff with no Democrats or other candidates running in November.

The race has attracted a lot of national attention with Covey getting the endorsement of former president Donald Trump, along with Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton,

Texas Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick and Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller.

Texas Tribune said the race is "most certainly" the most expensive Texas House of Representatives race in history. Both candidates brought in thousands of dollars from do-

PHELAN Page 3A

MARGARET TOAL For The Record

Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan barely hung onto his position as District 21 representative Tuesday night with 366 more votes as he battled challenger David Covey in a runoff.

The runoff total for the three counties in District 21 had 12,813 votes for Phelan and 12,447 for

Covey.

Orange County went with Covey in the March primary race and again in Tuesday's runoff. The county Elections Administrator's Office reports a preliminary runoff final of 5,842 votes, or 836 more than Phelan with 5,006. Covey got 53.85 percent of Orange County votes and Phelan got 46.15 percent.

The district has all of

Industries report big dollars for OC

MARGARET TOAL For The Record

Golden Triangle Polymers, the Chevron Phillips chemical plant under construction, spent \$39.3 million dollars locally in the first quarter of 2024.

The report given to Orange County Commissioners Court Tuesday is part of the requirement for the new plant's tax abatement with the county for the \$8.5 billion petrochemical plant between Highway 87 South and FM 1006, known as Chemical Row.

And in a separate report, Jefferson Energy Terminal along the Neches River side of the county claimed \$1 billion in property improvements as that company finished its tenth, and last report, for a tax abatement contract ten years ago.

The county's contracts with the corporations to grant property tax abatements, included the company making reports. The reports, compiled by the corporations, give commissioners and the public a look at how much money the projects are bringing to the community and how many jobs they are providing.

For a half century, tax

abatement agreements have been popular across the United States as a way for cities, counties, and states to attract new business and industry investments. Those agreements let the new business or industry contract with the entities to give tax breaks for certain periods. The concept is those new businesses or industries will increase tax income by providing jobs and adding to the permanent property values for future full taxes.

However, in recent years, the tax abatements have come under some criticism that the businesses and industries do not end up providing as much as the tax breaks they have received.

Heather Betancourt, the public liaison for Golden Triangle Polymers, gave the report on the new plant. According to her information, the new plant has spent \$312.1 million locally since the tax abatement contract started in October 2022.

So far for the first quarter of this year, the project has a total of 225 local job hirings, with 207 of those jobs by the contractors.

County Page 3A



West Orange-Cove CISD district employees of the year were announced during the annual Retirement and Employee Recognition Banquet this week. Pictured are: Jakeshia Wright, Auxiliary Employee of the Year; Benjamin Booker III, Paraprofessional of the Year, and Kandi Jolivet, Teacher of the Year seen here with Superintendent, Dr. Rickie Harris.

Commissioners endorse buying more mosquito spray

MARGARET TOAL For The Record

Commissioners Court Tuesday didn't hesitate to spend \$101,000 on an item that has gone over budget for the year. Orange County Mosquito Control will be getting more pesticide to spray from the special plane.

"We've had a very active first eight months of this fiscal year" and the supplies are "critically low," said Mosquito Control Director Patrick Beebe told commissioners.

The county's fiscal, or budget year, goes from October 1 through September 30. Usually, the mosquito population slows down in January through March. This year has been different with the insects proliferating in those months, leaving no break for the need of

spraying.

Beebe said mosquito activity has increased during the past eight months because of a mild winter, lots of rainfall, high tides coming in, plus water flowing downstream from areas north of Orange County. Water that is left standing becomes a breeding and hatching ground for the pesky flying blood suckers.

The county sprays Fyfanon, or Malathion as the insecticide for the aerial treatments. According to Beebe's report to commissioners, the three year average for use of the chemical is 3,103 gallons a year. As of May 23, a week ago, the county had used 4,425 gallons and summer, the most active time for mosquitoes, hasn't started.

At one point, the mosquito control department



Fyfanon aerial treatments

had \$9.20 left in its spray budget and had run out of spray for the plane. Then commissioners agreed to have Beebe move some money around from another fund in the department.

In the past days, the plane has been regularly spraying routes through the county. County spray trucks also travel roads with insecticides for ground treatments, usually at night or times when mosquitoes are most active.

Commissioners quickly approved giving Beebe his requested \$101,000 from the contingency fund used for emergencies or unexpected expenses. The money should cover the spray expenses through the end of the current fiscal year on September 30.

Commissioners earlier in the meeting had complimented the mosquito control department for working to cut down on the number of the insects.

Mosquitoes are not simply pests. They can spread a number of diseases. The Texas Department of Health and Human Services reports those diseases include West Nile Fever, Zika, Dengue, malaria, and St. Louis Encephalitis. In the past 20 years, Orange County has confirmed West Nile and Zika cases in humans.

Hurricane season starts June 1-- Ready?

MARGARET TOAL For The Record

Spin the Wheel of Fortune and see if what name it lands on. Will it be Beryl, Rafael, or William? Those are some of the 2024 names for hurricanes and the National Hurricane Center is predicting a busy year for tropical storms and even major hurricanes.

Hurricane season officially starts June 1 and will run through the end of November.

The National Hurricane Center is part of NOAA, the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, operated by scientists through the U.S. Department of Commerce. The storm forecast this year calls for an 85 percent chance of an above-average active year in the Atlantic Basin, which includes the Gulf of Mexico.

The predictions are for 17 to 25 named storms. Storms are named when they reach tropical

strength of 39 mph sustained winds with a circular motion. A tropical storm becomes a Category 1 hurricane when it reaches sustained wind of 74 mph or more.

The forecast calls for 8 to 13 of the storms to become hurricanes with four to seven of the hurricanes classified as "major," or Category 3, 4, or 5, with sustained winds of 111 mph or higher.

Conditions for the active season include a number of atmospheric condi-

tions coming together. One, is that the Atlantic Ocean is at near-record warm temperatures. Warm water feeds the development of tropical storms. Also, a La Nina pattern is forming in the Pacific Ocean, which can lead to more storms in the Atlantic.

In addition, there's a reduction in trade winds in the Atlantic. The trade winds can create wind shears that break of the formation of rotating tropical storm systems.

Orange County is along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, and residents here have always known hurricanes are part of the geography. Spin the wheel and see what your chances of being hit are.

The county has been landing on the storm sections of that wheel of chances too many times in the past 20 years. Rita in 2005 was a Category 3 that ripped down thousands of trees, with many of them crashing into homes and other build-

ings.

Hurricane Humberto in 2007 was a fast-forming storm that developed into a Category 1 hurricane and changed paths to run through Orange County. The toll included the death of an elderly man in Bridge City when a carport fell on him, and the total loss of a lawyer's office in downtown Orange. Firefighters during the strong winds stopped in from taking out a block of

HURRICANE Page 3A



BCHS Valedictorian and Salutatorian Class of 2024

ELIZABETH MAMIE BUNCH- VALEDICTORIAN

Elizabeth Mamie Bunch (right) is the daughter of Mark and Erin Bunch and will be graduating as the Valedictorian of Bridge City High School's Class of 2024. Over the past four years, Elizabeth dedicated her time to the Bridge City Band where she served as drum major of the marching band in her senior year. In band, she was a four time TMEA All-Region band member and participated in Area auditions three times. Elizabeth was also the Vice President of UIL Academics, competing in the Calculator, General Math, Number Sense, and Spelling events, and advanced to regional competitions for three years. She was also the Vice President of the Interact Club, the President of National Honor Society, and a member of Student Council, serving as the Senior Class Treasurer. Elizabeth was a recipient of the Rotary Youth Leadership Award junior year and was a member of the TASC State Secretary Campaign her senior year. She also earned the Girl Scout Gold Award. In the fall, Elizabeth will be attending Texas A&M University in College Station to study Public Health to pursue a career in Neonatal Nursing.

ADDISON WOOLLEY - SALUTATORIAN

Addison Woolley is the daughter of Tim and Sally Woolley and the older sister of Carter, Callie, and Reid Woolley. Addison will be graduating Salutatorian of the Bridge City High School's Class of 2024. Over these past four years, Addison dedicated her time to the Bridge City Band where she served as a drum major for two years. Addison helped lead the band to state-level marching performances back to back and was part of the Wind Ensemble that performed at the Midwest Clinic in Chicago. As a sophomore, Addison was selected to lead a super team of CTE students through the process of building and designing a district-wide STEM Bus. Over the next few years, she presented in front of various companies to help raise over \$50,000, worked with others to execute the design plans, and began overseeing lessons with the fully functional mobile STEM lab. Addison has held several other leadership positions outside of these organizations. She served as president of UIL Academics as well as Math Captain, advancing to regionals in multiple events throughout her time in high school. She was involved in Student Council as a class representative and Spanish Club as treasurer. During her junior year, Addison was selected as a member of the Youth Leaders of Southeast Texas where she worked alongside other student leaders to create a project that served the Orange County Rainbow Room. In the fall, Addison will attend Southern Methodist University to pursue a double major in Accounting and Mechanical Engineering.



LCM Valedictorian and Salutatorian Class of 2024

RHYLAN WILSON AND CHRISTINE QI

LCM High School Class of 2024 Honor Graduates, the class valedictorian is Rhylan Wilson, and the class salutatorian is Christine Qi.



WOS Valedictorian and Salutatorian Class of 2024

ANASTASHIA PERKINS- VALEDICTORIAN

Anastashia Perkins, the daughter of Patrick Perkins, is an Early College High School graduate through the school's partnership with Lamar State College-Orange. She has been an active member of the M3 Band, serving as a section leader for the past three years, and is also a member of the National Honor Society. Anastashia plans to attend the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor, where she will major in Nursing.

LENDRIT MAKOLLI - SALUTATORIAN

Lendrit Makolli, the son of Bashkim and Kadriju Makolli, is also an Early College High School graduate through the partnership with Lamar State College-Orange. He has earned his Structural Steel Welding and Pipe Welding certifications through the American Welding Society. In addition to his academic achievements, Lendrit is a dedicated member of the National Honor Society and works at his family's restaurant, Milano's Italian Grill, in Bridge City. He intends to continue his education at Lamar State College-Orange to become an Electromechanical Technician.

Orangefield HS Valedictorian and Salutatorian Class of 2024



Kaitlyn Jenkins

Logan Cheek

KAITLYN JENKINS - VALEDICTORIAN

Jenkins is a member of the volleyball team, National Honor Society, Interact Club, Art Club, and Student Council. She has been a member of UIL Academics teams throughout high school. She has advanced to the state competition in Computer Applications. She will be attending Tulane in the fall to major in Architecture.

LOGAN CHEEK - SALUTATORIAN

Cheek is an athlete, participating in football, basketball, and baseball. He earned 1st Team All District his junior year in baseball and 1st Team Academic All State his senior year. He also earned 1st Team Academic All State for football his senior year. In addition to sports, he is a member of National Honor Society. Cheek will be attending Texas A&M University to major in Chemical Engineering.



Orange County Aggie Moms Scholarship winners

Orange County Aggie Moms recently awarded a total of \$2,000 in scholarships for Orange County high school Class of 2024. This year's recipients are Blaine Lenard and Carys Wolfe, each receiving \$1,000. Blaine Lenard is graduating Magna Cum Laude from Orangefield High School. He is the son of Justin & Emily Forse and Dustin & Jessica Lenard.

Blaine will be attending Texas A&M University majoring in Construction Science. Blaine will also be a member of the Fightin' Texas Aggie Marching Band and Corps of Cadets. Carys Wolfe is graduating Magna Cum Laude from Bridge City High School.

Carys is the daughter of Raven and Keith Wolfe. Carys was a part of National Honors Society, Varsity Cheerleading, U.I.L. Cheerleading, Cheer Hawaii U.S.A., the Executive Student Council, Tishy's Modeling Team, AP Art Program, Dance Masters of America Junior Membership, Dual Enrollment Courses, and Encore Dance Arts Company Member. Carys has been a competitive dancer for 10 consecutive years and has been presented many awards throughout her dance career. Carys will be attending Texas A&M University in the fall of 2024, where she will major in biochemistry to pursue the occupation of dentistry.

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of Orange County, Texas

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County business From Page 1



Heather Betancourt, public liaison with Golden Triangle Polymers, appeared before Orange County Commissioners Court to present the corporation's first quarter 2024 report on money spent and jobs created at the \$8.5 billion petrochemical plant under construction. The quarterly reports are part of the county's tax abatement agreement with the county.

The contractors include engineering, procurement, and construction companies for Golden Triangle Polymers.

The project's grand total of local employment since late 2022 is now at 1,183.

Golden Triangle Polymers reports include lists of smaller vendors across Orange County that are doing business with the company and contractors. Those businesses include locally-owned and operated restaurants, pest control, photographers, auto supply companies, printing companies and office supply companies.

Chris Robbins, chief financial officer for Jefferson Energy, gave the company's annual report for its tax abatement contract. Jefferson Energy, an oil refinery, built the port and

loading facilities along with storage tanks, on the Orange County west bank of the Neches River.

The property now has barge docks, ship docks, rail tracks, some 30 heated and unheated storage tanks for crude and refined products. In addition, the property has the Southern State Pipeline linked to Motiva and the Cross Channel Pipeline linked to Exxon. The report said the property improvements are valued at \$1 billion. The company now has 174 full-time employees from Orange and adjacent counties.

In other business, Commissioners Court approved payments to non-profit groups of \$2,500 to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), and \$10,000 to the Julie Rogers Gift of Life

program. County Judge John Gothia said the amounts were both approved by the court for the 2023-24 fiscal year and the checks to the groups are now being sent.

Precinct 1 Commissioner Johnny Trahan said he thinks the court should give more money to CASA because the group saves the county money. Volunteers at CASA receive special training to help represent children in court as they go through legal proceedings by child protective services.

Approved bill payments included \$82,630 from the general fund for the monthly payment for group insurance benefits for county retirees age 65 and older, plus \$5,750 from the general fund to Claybar Funeral Home for indigent funeral expenses.

The court agreed to a minor plat for Pinehurst DG, a 2.83 acre tract of land off Highway 62 south of Interstate 10 and in Precinct 2. The plat has been approved by the Orange County Drainage District and the city of Orange. The property is within the extraterritorial jurisdiction of the city.

Another minor plat approved is for the Mattox Addition in the Josiah Brick Survey in Precinct 2. The 2.96 acre plat has been reviewed by the drainage district.

As hurricane season approaches, the court gave the county purchasing agent permission to see bids for providing food services in case of an emergency disaster. The food services are for county deputies, officials, road and bridge crews, and other county employees needed immediately after a disaster hits.

Addison Wooley gets BBB scholarship



Congratulations to Bridge City High School senior Addison Wooley recipient of the Better Business Bureau of Southeast Texas Education Fund \$2500 Scholarship. Pictured are Orange County BBB Board Member Donna Peterson, Addison and BBB CEO Darren Erwin.

Hurricane season From Page 1

commercial buildings.

Then came Hurricane Ike in 2008. Though the worst winds of Category 3 Ike hit more toward the Galveston area, Orange County's location took the storm surge from the Gulf up into Sabine Lake and the Sabine and Neches rivers. A third of Orange County was under water, including nearly all of Bridge City.

Though some tropical systems came

by, no major ones hit here again until Harvey in 2017. Though the hurricane hit the lower Texas coast with Category 3 winds, it's meandering path sent it into the state, back out into the water, and then back again. It was categorized as a tropical storm when it sat over Orange County as it dumped 40 to 60 inches of rain and flooded vast portions of the county.

Phelan wins From Page 1

nors outside the area and some outside the state. The online news source said Phelan's campaign reported spending \$3.8 million on the runoff, more than double the \$1.2 million spent for the Covey campaign.

Phelan has served in the District 21 spot for 10 years and worked his way up to serving as the powerful speaker of the house. Most local city and county leaders have endorsed him for his work in helping the area draw new industries, get money for drainage improvements, and help after disasters.

Phelan as speaker last year led the house impeachment of Attorney General Paxton on various allegations of misconduct. The house impeached Paxton, but the Texas Senate, led by Patrick, did not impeach Paxton.

A number of Republicans backing Covey criticized Phelan for working with house Democrats and appointing them to house committees. Mixing Republicans and Democrats on the committees had once been a long tradition in the state house.

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— Orange —

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From the Creaux's Nest

SPEAKER PHELAN BEATS PAXTON'S REVENGE

Dade Phelan, Speaker of the Texas House, has beaten David Covey in a runoff election that pitted Phelan against Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick and millions of dollars in the most expensive, dishonest, mud-slinging campaign ever run in this district. A record nine members lost their primaries, and eight were sent to runoffs, including Dade Phelan, who has run the House for two sessions and is the main target of right-wing Republicans' efforts to push the lower chamber further to the right. Phelan had come in second place in his primary, possibly setting him up to be the first speaker ousted from the legislature. In recent years, as the Texas Senate has lurched to the right and embraced culture war issues, the House has emerged as a more moderate and deliberative chamber. At the end of the day, Phelan and others said his race and the other runoffs would be a referendum on the direction of Texas politics. Far-right donors, led by West Texas billionaires Tim Dunn and Farris Wilks, poured millions into the race. Former President Donald Trump also endorsed Phelan's opponent David Covey. Another endorsement loss for Trump. The next thing to come out of the Covey camp will be sour grapes.

TEXAS GOP ADOPTS PLATFORM

The Texas Republican Party on Saturday voted on two new party platform planks aimed at barring the teaching of sex and sexuality in schools while simultaneously calling on Texas schools to teach the "dignity of the preborn human" and that life begins at fertilization. The party planks specify what the Texas GOP believes students should and should not be taught in the classroom about gender and sex, signaling further shifts to the right. Critics say such policies would be harmful and discriminatory. "The issue of gender has nothing to do with education," said Cindi Castilla, president of the Texas Eagle Forum. "Education is about reading, writing, math, science, history and fine arts. Maybe some foreign language and PE. Schools aren't the social educators of our kids." The newly approved Texas GOP party platform broadly places the culture wars at its core, as the party adopted a slew of new platforms that shift the party further to the right on Saturday. Delegates Saturday voted on 275 platform planks, which will now need to be tallied and certified in Austin. It is rare for a plank to be rejected, The delegates voted to choose 8 among 15 legislative priorities to be shared with Republican lawmakers ahead of the legislative session that starts in January. "The Texas GOP is out of step with the majority of Americans who believe in equality," said Zeph Capo, president of the Texas chapter of American Federation of Teachers.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2014

I first met Carmela Ceja the day she and Ricardo opened their new Tequila's Restaurant in Bridge City. I was stunned to learn that at age 50, this beautiful lady's life had ended. She had three great children Vaneza, Kimberly and Ricardo, Jr. Carmela was a devoted Catholic and supported many worthy causes. She died May 20, services were held May 23. ****I understand Judge Thibodeaux can see straight ahead now not around his glasses after cataract eye surgery Tuesday. ****Congratulations to Todd "Big Daddy" Landry who was named "Farmer of the Year" by the Lower Sabine Neches Soil and Water Conservation District. Last year our publication was honored with the award. That's when our buddy, Ruben Stringer headed up the organization. Since his death, he has been replaced by Mauriceville native Larry Peveto, of Buna. ****Judge Pat Clark and Rosalie's granddaughter, Whitney, a sophomore at a 5-A Houston school, was named "First Team All District" in soccer. She still has two years to go and is shooting for All State. ****Congrats to Cathy Riley, of Bridge City, and Summer Diamond, of Little Cypress-Mauriceville, who were honored with the Reaud "Excellence in Education" award. ****Brad Paisley accompanied President Obama on a surprise visit to the troops in Afghanistan. Brad and his guitar entertained the troops. The President personally shook every soldier's hand which took nearly two hours. ****Bill Gaither's homecoming tour is coming to Ford Park on Aug. 1. That's my kind of gospel music. ****Roy said his uncle, Dan Duplantis, bordered on being a genius. Dan invented a way to separate color by designing filters for a Kodak camera. The company flew him to New York and gave him \$5,000 for his invention. It's made billions since. Anyway here's what's ironic. Dan's great nephew, Mark Dunn, the advertising agent for King Save Warehouse Foods was the very first person to develop and run a color process ad in this market. Mark furnished the color separations (4) to the Port Arthur News, Beaumont Enterprise and Orange Leader. He stayed up all night to see the first fully colored ad he

had built. Our paper, The Opportunity Valley News, couldn't run it; we didn't have enough unit capacity.

20 Years Ago-2004

Beloved Bridge City teacher MiMi Hollier retires. She has spent 33 years in the same classroom. When school begins in the fall, the classroom will be in a brand new building but without Ms. Hollier. She says, "It's with mixed emotions that I leave, I have spent 33 years with tremendous students and special colleagues. It will be strange that for the first time in all those years I won't be teaching public school." She and husband Bob will be doing several things. MiMi will be teaching at Lamar College, running an antique business and traveling. (Editor's note: Ms. MiMi helped many students go on to successful careers. She is remembered fondly by some who are now grandparents. A SIDE BAR: A few days before her retirement Ms. Hollier wrote a letter to Mark Dunn and sent him a copy of a story he had written the year she arrived in Bridge City as a young teacher, titled "A Young Soldier." She was so impressed she had kept the story all those years and sent it back to him. (Editor's note: I believe she was Mark's favorite teacher. His long-suit has always been his writing. He hasn't cultivated it but no doubt Mark could have been a great writer if he had pursued it as a career.) ****GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: Jimmy "Jimbo" Carpenter, 63, died May 29, service was held June 1. Born in Des Allemands, LA, the lifelong Orange resident was a member of the well known, large Carpenter clan, which included football star Sammy Carpenter. ****Melissa Jenkins, 69, of Bridge City died Monday, May 24. She is survived by daughters Dr. Jan Jenkins, Melinda Faulk and Leslie Jenkins and one son Neal Jenkins. ****A few days ago Earl Darby, of Bridge City, passed away and also young Michael Reeh, 21, lost his life in an auto accident in Beaumont. ****Novrozsky's comes to Orange with a grand opening to be held May 25. The restaurant located at 501 16th St. Regional manager is Jim Larkin, manager, Scott Thorn. Judge Thibodeaux and Councilman Ben Culpepper assisted in the ribbon cutting.

50 Years Ago-1974

Terri Lynn Stakes, 18, due to graduate on Friday night, met her death in an auto accident Thursday night. Her classmates openly wept. Terri had a genuine love for people. She loved life and God took her home to be one of his angles. Terri was put to rest with her graduation cap and gown. She was the daughter of Bobbie and Calvin Stakes, Sr. ****Dick Bivens swears he caught Bill Clark stealing roasting ears of corn out of Hubert Marshall's corn patch. Doris Ann was with him said Dick, but she sat in the car and wasn't stealing. Since Bill admitted it on the air and promised not to raid the corn patch again Hubert will not prosecute. ****Tommy Segura flies 36 hours over land and sea to get home to Bridge City. He is in Uncle Sam's Air Force and will be home on a 30-day leave. On arrival he slept for 14 hours. ****Orange County bids farewell to "Mr. Ted." Several of his former players and assistant coaches were on hand to honor Jefferies on the same ground where the successful mentor had made it all happen, the Stark High football field. In 1941 he coached Wichita Falls to the state championship. On hand for the ceremony was quarterback of that 1941 team, Gene Hill. H.W. "Chief" Wilson told about playing for "Mr. Ted" at SFA. Glenn Green recalled playing for Lamar Tech and facing SFA, who the previous week had completed 25 of 31 passes. Glenn said, "Lamar worked all week to stop the pass so Coach Ted changed the entire offense in one week. SFA ran multiple traps and threw only twice and beat the hell out of us." Stark high coach Dexter Bassinger spoke about his career as an assistant under Coach Jefferies. "Mr. Ted's" overall record was 256-117-8. He is an inductee of the Texas High School Hall of Fame.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Teresa Hearne George, a Bridge City native and former beauty queen, has been in town since her father Ray Hearne passed away a few weeks ago. She has been staying with her mother Elaine. Last week Teresa visited her friends Charlotte and Dow Gene Anderson. Teresa has spent many years in Nashville producing country music shows and has written a couple of books. One, "Take These Chains from my Heart" has over 200 quotations from country music greats. I still have my autographed copy. It reads, "Thanks for your help over the years, Love Theresa." She is no longer in the music business. ****Peggy Claybar's family is ready with the cookies and lemonade for their seventh summer benefit to help Traci's Texas Tails, the non-profit dog rescue group run by the tireless Traci James. Peggy spends a lot of time with her grandkids, and a few summers ago the kids got the idea to sell cookies and lemonade to raise money for the pups. It's now an annual affair for sisters Annabelle and Caroline Claybar, with their cousins Keller Claybar and Breelyn Lemaire. Each year gets bigger and bigger. This year gift baskets will be raffled, decorative hand-painted garden rocks will be sold, along with the cookies and lemonade. The benefit will be this Wednesday, May 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the yard of 602 Pine Avenue in the Old Orange Historic District. Watch for the traffic. It's a popular event. ****Graduation ceremonies have about ended and a lot of grandparents around Orange County are thankful. They were rushing around last week catching all the high school graduations. Dance recitals are still going on. ****Speaking of graduations, Rebecca Johns graduated from Ole Miss with all kinds of honors, included being the class marshal. She's the daughter of Rebecca and Bret Johns. ****Elvis Rushing retired from the West Orange-Cove school district after 25 years. He's been the longtime technology director and we bet he has seen a lot of changes in that quarter century with tech in schools. ****Outdoors writer and nature expert Chester Moore went up to Massachusetts, site of the novel and movie "Jaws" on the 50th anniversary of making the film. He made a stop to the Atlantic White Shark Conservancy. Do you know the conservancy has a phone app that will track white sharks they are monitoring? ****Gary Bonneaux has a mystery. Why is he flying to Milwaukee? ****County Commission-

er Johnny Trahan with wife, Becky, went with friends, including County Judge John Gothia and his wife, Glynis, to the U.S. Virgin Islands for some tropical beachtime with whitesands and blues seas. ****Roderick and Brandy Robertson are vacationing in Louisville, Kentucky, to watch son Peyton play minor league baseball. Their trip has included seeing the Louisville Slugger museum and factory. They found Andre Robertson's signature from his New York Yankee days. Andre is Roderick's brother, and Roderick also played professional ball. ****Cody Caples with the Orange Fire Department graduated last week from peace officer school. The double training will help him serve as an investigative fire marshal. He had another graduation as his son, Colton, graduated from kindergarten... The Orange Public Library is bringing back summer miniature golf. Individuals and families can play for free on a miniature golf course the library staff will set up among the bookshelves. Clubs and balls will be provided and no reservations are required. It's going to be Thursday, June 6, from 3 to 7 p.m. ****Orange City Councilor Brad Childs and wife, Terri, are celebrating their 20th anniversary with a cruise. ****Charles and Bianca Garrett marked their 18th wedding anniversary. ****Our prayers go out to Danny Brack, our longtime friend, who is battling health problems that had him hospitalized over a month. Danny is a fighter. More later on his condition. ****Dunn turns 90, June 5. A gathering of friends will take place next Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Robert's. Roy says no gifts please. Seeing friends will be a wonderful gift.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

A few folks having birthdays in the next few days. May 29: Sam Kitchel, A. J. Lemoine, Christina Cunningham. ****May 30: Dr. Amber Dunn, Dr. David Olson, Judge Rex Peveto, Carla Court. Jerry Jackson, Stacey LaRose, Brian Ousley, Clint Worthy Kimberlea Worthy, Derek George, Nikki Barron, Nikki Fisette. ****May 31: Brad Spooner, Irene Storment, Florence Evans, Rebecca Cartwright, Lauren Brownlie, Macey Joubert, Terry George, Rhonda Wilson, Brooke Edwards. ****June 1: Linda Wolford, Shirley Griffin, Emily Culpepper, Gene Armand, Joyce Bourdier, Rollie Cardner, Sheila Deason, Claudia Lyon, Janice Prevost. ****June 2: Kayla Hickey, Levastie LeBlanc, Nina Acen, Susan Broussard, Pete Modica, Jr., Julie Lummus, Kathy Holland, Miranda McClure. ****June 3: Herman Dupuis, David Lopes, Harold Trantham, Matthew Jagoe, ****June 4: Brittany Yu, Paige Ousley, Jade Ousley, Brooklyn Goldsmith, Aaron McNeil, Sandra Hoke, Donna Benefield, Donna Rogers. **** Birthdays celebrated last week include Nelda Burton, who always promotes and works for the betterment of Mauriceville. Also, blowing out candles were Jo Harris, Chloe Abshire, Joline Clark, Corey Stark, Hillary Gravett, Lainie Brown, Mary Ann Fetchin, Lois Ferrell, Julie Mashaney, Joey Claybar, Morgan Latiolais, Jo Ann Clark, Carly-Ray, Krystal Sanche, Hunter Peveto, Summer Kovatch, MaQuettia Ledet, Kelly Mophew, David McDuffie, Chad Bornholdt, D.J. Dugas, Angie Claybar, Jimmie Barnes, Deborah Harris, Lisa Moore, Cindy Gunn, Benitris Petteurway Edwards, Cassie Grizaffi, Rose Lori Briggs, and Cap'n Jack the parrot, who turned 18.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Tee Nonk Comeaux was scheduled to have major open heart surgery. Dr. Primeaux told Tee Nonk dat the surgeon, Dr. Trahan, had told him dat he had a 50/50 chance of survival. Dr. Primeaux said, "I'll be praying for you Comeaux."

Wen Comeaux awakened after da serious operation, he found da room dark, wit all the blinds drawn.

"Why are all da blinds closed, hanh?" Comeaux ake. "Well," da surgeon responded, "Dey fighting a huge fire across da street dem, and we didn't want you to wake up and tink da operation had failed."

C'EST TOUT CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRADS

It seems like just the other day that little Johnny or little Mary started Pre-K but in the next few days 12 years would have flown by. Those years, from elementary through high school, will be the years that will follow them the most as they travel through life. Many will look back years from now and really appreciate what great few years those were. What they don't realize today is that as time passes they will drift away from those they consider their best friends. They will vow to stay in touch and for a time they will, but life for these youngsters is getting ready to make some drastic changes. New friends, in different walks of life, will be made but what will always remain is that the friends made in the formative years will always be. Hometown pride and childhood memories made there will always be in their thoughts. However, five years from now 80 percent of all today's grads will have moved away never to make it their home again. Some will marry far away girls or boys, start families elsewhere and that place will become the hometown of their offspring and the cycle starts all over. We're proud of our grads and wish them a great, successful life filled with happiness and good health. There is no telling where life will take them, some have an idea of what they want to do but there are no guarantees in life. ****Thanks for your time. Thanks for your loyalty. Take care and God bless.



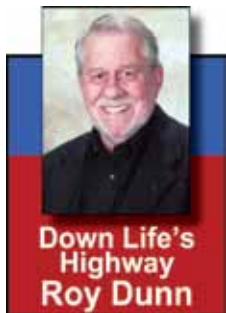
Dan and I and the road we traveled

A personal hero that left his mark on a little boy, and it followed him to old age.

Roy Dunn
Down Life's Highway
For The Record

Back in the 1930's times were hard around the country but in the Cajun parishes of Louisiana they were really bad. My grandfather died when I was four years old, which left no man around. My uncle Meldon "Tee-Dan" Duplantis was still single but lived away from home. He worked at the Abbeville newspaper and came by to visit grandma Avalia almost every day. He always took a few moments to play with me. At that young age, he was the only male influence I had in my life. They told stories about some of Dan's exploits around the community. He had once climbed to the top of the Vermillion River Bridge. When word reached grandma she talked him down and whipped him all the way home.

He was also a good boxer. Once, when a boxing hustler came to town and offered 50 cents to anyone who could stay in the fight with his fighter, Dan gave it a try. He not only lasted the three rounds, he beat the guy, to the delight of the paying crowd. He also fought Chris Dundee, Angello Dundee's brother, and Clay and Sugar Ray's manager. Dan got me interested in boxing. Dan gave me my first baseball glove, taught me about baseball and how to throw a curve ball. He went on to manage a semi-pro baseball team in the Teche League. He got me a job announcing at baseball games in the Evangeline Pro League. After he married, while I was still a little guy, I would spend a couple of weeks each summer in Lafayette where he worked for the Daily Advertiser newspaper. At the same time, he had formed a band



that played professionally. He didn't entertain, he just managed. Uncle Tee-Dan and I had always been very close. In some ways I was his protégé but he had multiple talents that I didn't possess.

He was a very good artist. I've told the story before about how he had seen a picture of Oswald in a New Orleans newspaper and had drawn a pen and ink portrait of him even before he killed President Kennedy. He showed the drawing in an art show in Beaumont two week before the assassination. Hanging on the wall of my office, before Ike, was a painting of Jack Ruby killing Oswald. He painted it on a board using regular leftover house paints. Dan never believed Oswald acted alone. He spent over 30 years investigating it. He compiled about 3,000 pages on the subject, interviewed many people and had his own life threatened. He had evidence that a woman, who he had interviewed, was murdered, because she knew about the plot put together by Carlos Marcello, New Orleans Mafia boss. He attempted to get me interested in the project but I believed the Warren report got it right. That had been one of the few times we hadn't seen eye to eye. When I wouldn't show any interest, he gave his findings to a television newsman in Lafayette.

Dan could fix anything. He repaired radios and televisions for extra money. He got so good at it that for a short time he left the paper business and went to work for Montgomery Wards as a technician-supervisor. I have an old, stand up Philco radio that he found tubes for in a friend's attic rewired it and made it played like new. He also repaired my wood and cast iron nickel slot machine that I had found over 30 years after my father had hidden it in a field during a gambling raid on his club in Abbeville.

Dan returned to the newspaper business, this time working for the Eunice News. When I decided to start a paper

in Orange, he was the first I called. Back then you needed very little equipment, mostly something to type on, a headliner machine, a good pair of scissors and a few oil cans that were used for glue to paste down copy. Everything was in black and white. During those times Dan came up with an invention that would change the industry. Since that was before color film, a camera saw only black and white. Red and other colors photographed black and the color blue would come out white. If you shot something that had red letters on a black background, it all came out black. Something with a blue background and white lettering came out white. Dan told me he had an idea of how to separate the colors. I told him I thought it was impossible to do with black and white film. Telling Uncle Tee Dan anything was impossible always spurred him on. One day, a few months later, he called and said he had done it. I didn't believe it. He mailed me the copy of the original print and the one he had separated the colors on. He hadn't told anyone else. He had come up with a method to use filters on a camera. The invention brought him worldwide attention in the industry. Kodak brought him to New York, gave him a special award and \$5 thousand dollars. Within a year every paper in the country was separating color. Dan took a keen interest in my newspaper. He visited as often as he could and we mailed him an Opportunity Valley News each week. He would give me pointers to improve what we were doing.

When we sold the paper, Phyl wanted to have all the papers we had published leather bound as a gift to me. We hadn't kept all the papers but Uncle Dan had. As I look through the books today, half of the newspapers have his name, address and a stamp on them. He had saved them all.

I was always his pride. He had molded me in many ways. He was always a hero to me. A few years ago, after this smart man retired, I stopped in Eunice to visit him. He showed me the art he had worked on, pen and inks of grandma and a drawing of the first mayor and county judge that he had drawn from

print images. He asked if I wanted to see his garden. He had devised a way to fertilize the crop underground by filling buckets with tiny pinholes, with fertilizer. He could feed his crop anytime he wanted with water pressure. Tomato plants were eight feet high and loaded. I bragged about his fine garden.

He beamed, then asked me, "What did you say your name was?" I was devastated. He had no idea who I was. I never went to see him again. His wife died and he was put in a nursing home. I drove by it several times but wouldn't stop. I wanted to remember the man I had admired since a boy just the way I had known him. Two of his four boys passed away before his death but he didn't remember them because of the dreadful Alzheimer's disease.

During the deep silence, an hour before dawn, when the world still seemed to be dreaming, thoughts of Dan were running through my mind. He had known so many people and made so many friends but the funeral home in Lafayette was empty. I looked at the registration book. A dozen people had been by. My sister Fay had brought Mom to see her brother. I'm told that seeing him in his casket provoked a tear. After the service, on the long drive home alone with my thoughts, I gave thanks that a young 21-year-old had taken an interest in me as a child and nourished that interest as long as he was capable. So much of what I had become was because of his caring.

My uncles are all gone now. The last time they were all together was at my yearly birthday gathering. Dan was always the first to arrive, shortly after daylight. This week, as I celebrate my birthday my thoughts will turn to the memories that we made together. You live life, do your thing, whatever it is you are called to do, worry about small things and sometimes even laugh at yourself. You watch the ones behind you grow and hopefully leave behind some memories for them to carry down the line until one day you leave this Life's Highway behind having served your time. On June 5th I turn 90 and hope to spend it with family and friends.

Deaths & Memorials

Albert "LJ" Joseph Doucet, 82

Albert "LJ" Joseph Doucet, 82, of Bridge City, TX passed away on Friday, May 24, 2024, in Groves, TX.

Funeral services will be at 11:00 am, Thursday, May 30, 2024, at St. Henry Catholic Church in Bridge City. Officiating will be Father Ernie Carpio with Deacon Steven Oberneufemann. Burial will follow at St. Mary Cemetery in Orange, TX.

Visitation will be at 9:00 am -11:00 am, Thursday, May 30, 2024, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City.

Born in Church Point, LA, on November 28th, 1941, he was the son of Gaston Doucet and Marie Thibodeaux.

LJ grew up in Winnie, TX and attended East Chambers High School. He relocated to Bridge City in the early 60's. There he worked as an insulator and small business owner for over 30 years. He was a member of the Asbestos Workers Local 22 and was a local businessman, a true entrepreneur owning several small businesses throughout his career. As a devout Catholic, LJ, along with his wife Pat, raised their family as active members and supporters of St. Henry Catholic Church and the Knights of Columbus. Additionally, he and his family were active and avid supporters of the local 4H and FFA community. Due to his lengthy illness, he was unable to continue to actively support so many organizations that he was deeply passionate about. However, he remained a tried and true, die-hard Dallas Cowboys superfan until the very end. As the patriarch of the Doucet family, he was a big man who loved big too. Spending the



Albert "LJ" Doucet

majority of his adult life in the same neighborhood as his brothers, he treasured raising their families together.

He is preceded in death by his parents Gaston Doucet and Marie Thibodeaux, his first wife, Lenora Jean, brothers Steve Doucet and Robert "Bud" Doucet, John Doucet, and sister Mable Clement.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of over 50 years, Pat Doucet; sister, Pat Brown; daughter, Penny Doucet; sons, Lance, wife Deedra; Loren, wife Mona; Laine, wife Megan; and Colby Doucet; grandchildren: Joshua Britt, Tiffany Burnette, Blake Kolar, Chaston Kolar, Dustin Doucet, London Doucet, Charly Doucet, and numerous great-grandchildren.

Serving as pallbearers will be Joshua Britt, Blake Kolar, Chaston Kolar, Dustin Doucet, Travis Doucet, Dallas Burnette, Matt Stephens, and Tell Brown. Honorary pallbearers are his nephews and great-grandsons.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made In Memory of Albert "LJ" Doucet to Dr. Zeenat Safdar, Houston Methodist Research Foundation to Advance Pulmonary Hypertension Research, 6445 Main St., Floor 22, Houston, TX 77030 or Catholic Charities.

His family wants to extend a very special thank you to each of the caregivers over the last 15 years who shared their love, time, and commitment to LJ. Over time they all became like family to him.

Cops N Kids picnic June 7

Once again, the Orange County Sheriff's Office is starting summer off for kids with the annual free big shebang at Claiborne West Park. The 28th Annual Sheriff's Office Cops N Kids picnic is set for Friday, June 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sheriff Jimmy Lane Mooney and the employees in the sheriff's office have been working to carry on the kid-friendly event that brings together first responders from across the area, along with local businesses and civic clubs.

Kids and their families will get free hot dogs, chips, drinks, and watermelon. There will also be free rides, games, and activities. But the most fun usually comes

from the children getting to talk to all kinds of first responders and see the vehicles they use.

The first responders will include all law enforcement agencies in Orange County like deputies, city police officers, and constables. Also, there will be game wardens from Texas Parks and Wildlife, who show off boats and airboats. The U.S. Coast Guard has previously had boats.

Ambulances, fire trucks, and other unique items used by first responders will be on display. Sometimes, there's even a helicopter.

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Congratulations to our BCHS 'Class of 2024'



Bridge City High School Graduation 'Class of 2024' Listed Below:

Angel Alexander Abarca
Jacob Acosta
Janelle Jamileht Acosta
Eliza Brianna Acosta
Eli Alejo
Miguel Alexander Alvarez
Tyler James Anderson
Annastasia Faye Autrey
Justin William Bacon
Jordan Thomas Bacon
Ana Jacqueline Bailey
Laurie Ann Barg
Lynsie Ann Barg
Kylah Renea Barker
Ariel Woodworth Batucan
Damien Nicholas Belanger
Connor Blake Bell
Laken Noel Bellanger
Ava Giselle Benavides
Riley Shane Billings
Shyanne Destiny Black
Gavin Michael Wayne Bodin
Grace Katheryn Boyd
E'layah La'shone Brady Wiley
Charla Navette Branham
Aspen Rayne Branshaw
Maigan Casey Braus
Baylee Breane Breaux
Lincoln Christopher Breaux
Kaylee Nicole Brinson
Reese Alan Broussard
Heidi Suzanne Broussard
Christian Lee Winston Brown
Aden Paul Bryant
Elizabeth Mamie Bunch
Cypress Lynn Burch
Trey Michael Burlison
Bailey Lynn Burnett
Luke James Campbell
Brookelynn Elisabeth Carpenter
Demi Renee' Carter
Jonathan Celedon
Eshaan Faizal Chakiwalla
Maverick Kale Chandler
James Trystin Chapman
Jamel Taevon Charles
Natalie Chavez
Valentin Chavez
Devyn Saige Cherry
Elizabeth Nicoll Chirinos Vigil
Jace Zane Colson
Brylen Maddox Colunga
Dakota Marie Cormier
Amanda Cheyenne Cowart
Jordan Alan Cunningham
Vanessa Rayne Daigle
William Eugene Delli
Riley Nicole Dickerson
Hayden Ray Dickson
Jace Alan Domec
Candice Nicole Dominey
Lyndsey Nathaly Dominguez
Jerris Xavier Dominic Brown
Christian Kingston Duncan
Abigayle Elaine Ernst
Jonathan Blaine Evans
Carson Paige Fall
Presley Noelle Faulkner

Jayden Figueroa
Abigail Jean ' E Fowler
Nicolas Tristen Fuentes
Samaira Marie Fullerton
Cody Randall Fuselier
Aidan Alexander Galvan
Angelina Yanet Galvan
Jules Adanah Geuder
Makayla Grace Gonzales
Emma Grace Gonzalez
Chiron Levie Goodeaux
Addison Marie Gothia
Raegan Michael Graves
Kaitlyn Michelle Gremillion
Colten Edward Gross
Jeslyn Olesia Guidroz
Keaton Maddox Guidry
Peyton Lashayna Guillory
Aiden James Gutierrez
Brody Wayne Hairston
Ashley Paige Hale
Ava Molly Hall
Bayllie Fayth Hamrick
James Leslie Hawkins
Kayson Scott Hebert
Rayburn James Hebert
Luke Edward Hendrickson
Ivan Anthony Hendryx
Victor Aiden Hernandez
Gracie Kay Jacobs
Kenzie Autumn Jaetzold
Jacob Lee Jones
Naomi Faith Jones
Ashton Paul Judice
Bladen Scott Keaton
Hunter Kane Keddy
Camden Scott Kelly
Daniel Cole Kelone
Savannah Marie Lamoureux
Aden Lance Lapeyrolerie
Tyana Minh-Thuy Le
Gabriela Elea LeBlanc
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Kole Ryan McClain
Jada Claire McClanahan
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Morgan Christian McPhail
Jasmine Imelda Mendez
Liliana Mendoza
Brailey Alese Miller
Emma Elizabeth Miller
Reese Clayton Mize
Mikail Paul Molley
Owen Moreno
Easton Arthur Morris
Aidyn Brooks Mulhollan
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Haley Lizzet Munoz

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Carlos Alejandro Ortiz
Victor Gabriel Ortiz
Jackson Wade Pachar
Virada Siripun Perkins
Mason Ainsly Price
Cindy Nicole Ramirez
Sitlaly Rangel
Westlyn Emma Reeves
Landon Kael Reeves
Donald Ray Renfrow
Ayden Brock Richardson
Christian Nathaniel Rios
Rafael Roberto Rios
Alexa Elizabeth Rivera
Ian Joseph Roberts
Keely Reese Robinson
Josmany Antonio Robleto
Kaylee Michelle Rodriguez
Ashley Rojas
Santino David Rosales
Karlye Marie Rowsey
Baby Girl Saldana
Hillary Jacklynn Savoy
Gavin James Lee Schiro
Gabrielle Lan Sensat
Katie Marie Seymour
Raven Leigh Shomo
Holly Faith Silveira
Mariah Joyce Smith
Alexis Nicole Smith
Andrew Michael Smith
Graci Renee' Snell
Brycen Charles Jay Sommerfelt
Emma Lee Sparks
Minh Jayden Le Spell
Cadien Jack Statum
Raven Christine Stephenson
Nancy Jo Stevens
Stephen Alexander Stone
Shelby Alyssa Theriot
Rylynn Renee Thornton
Aaron Michael Torres
Colin Duy Tran
Evan Han Tran
Brayton Keith Tregre
Kaden Cole Trevino
Edward John Van Huis
Angela Martina Vargas
Breanna Anahy Velazquez
Ava Renea Vicknair
Kaitlyn Nicole Warden
Aidan Xander Webb
Avery Ruth Weidner
Madilyn Paige Wheeler
Reid Preston White
Jacilyn Rose Wiegand
Gavin Reece Williams
Carys Elise Wolfe
Addison Paige Woolley
Caitlyn Irene Yost
Andrea Montserrat
Zuniga Ceja

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Bobcats advance to Regionals

Orangefield Bobcats tame Tigers in playoffs

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

Orangefield is boldly going where the Bobcats have not gone in baseball for more than three decades. The Orangefield Bobcats tamed the Rockdale Tigers last week to advance to the fifth round of the UIL state baseball playoffs for the first time since 1990.

The best of three games Regional Semifinal series was played on Wednesday and Thursday, May 22-23, at Cypress Woods High School northwest of Hous-

ton. Orangefield advanced to the Regional Finals by sweeping two games from Rockdale.

On Wednesday night the Bobcats jumped out to a four run lead after two innings and then somewhat coasted after that. Orangefield won 4-1 over the Tigers.

Bobcat starter Brycen Tait was solid again with no walks and six strike outs. The Tigers managed eight hits which Tait was able to spread out over five of the seven innings during the game.

Coach Tim Erickson of Orangefield commented



Matthew Johnson left and Logan Cheek right had extra base hits to drive in runs and Garrett Rawls threw two shutout innings to preserve the Bobcats' series clinching win over Rockdale.

about Tait's winning formula on the mound. "He's always around the zone. Like I have said before the Bobcats are going to play defense behind him, so that gives Brycen a lot of confidence up there. I think he did a great job in a big ball park with the wind blowing in. He knew that just filling up the strike zone, not trying to do too much would be the key."

In the bottom of the first inning Kane Smith of the Bobcats led off with a single. Cameron Dearing reached on a fielder's choice and Logan Cheek singled Cameron to third.

Cheek stole second before Caleb Fregia grounded out to second scoring

BOBCATS Page 3B

Chigger season tips to beat the itch

Staff Report
Texas A&M AgriLife

If you've ever dealt with a bug bite, especially the annoying itchiness of chigger bites, you will want to be ready to avoid them the next time you are outdoors.

Chiggers are the larval stage of a group of mites containing many species found around the world. The six-legged larvae are generalist parasites and feed on lizards, birds and small mammals like mice and rabbits. However, as many of us know, they are not limited to those animals. The other stages of the chigger life cycle – nymphs and adults – are predators of other very small mites and insects.

There are a few things people should know about these tiny biting pests that might help them avoid a big itch, said Bryant McDowell, Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service integrated pest management program specialist and entomologist in the Department of Entomology in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

McDowell has already received several calls about chiggers from curious Texans. He expects the number of people suffering from chigger bites will increase as spring wraps up and we enter the summer season.

"Last year, it seemed like chigger outbreaks came earlier in the year, but late spring and early fall are really their prime seasons," he said. "Anytime you mix temperatures above 80 degrees and moisture, that is the recipe for chigger infestations."

What you need to know about chigger bites

Victims of their bite know the unrelenting itch that follows. But they may not know the details of how these pests spread their misery.

These near-microscopic mites hitch a ride, where they move along their host's body to a feeding site and attach to the skin. Chiggers tend to settle in areas where clothing fits tightly to the body like socks and waistlines or in moist areas like armpits or behind the knees. They have a knack for concentrating in especially bothersome places.

They do not burrow into the skin, nor do they feed on blood. Instead, they inject saliva into the upper layers of the skin. The sali-

va contains enzymes that dissolve skin cells enabling the attached chigger to suck up the dissolved cells and lymph.

Over the chigger's feeding period, the process of salivation and drinking or sucking of the dissolved skin cells is repeated many times creating a tiny tube through the skin layers.

Our bodies react to the enzymes and feeding process with an itching, allergic reaction producing inflammation typically with redness, swelling and sometimes welts.

Treating the itch

The itch and other reactions to the chigger bites typically occur several hours after the chiggers have fed and detached.



Avoiding habitats with high probabilities of supporting chiggers, using preventive measures with repellents, appropriate clothing and post-exposure cleansing can reduce the impacts of chiggers.

Thus, we are left with treating the itch, inflammation and potential secondary infections with over-the-counter medications.

The bites are itchy for a few days and can take up to two weeks to disappear, McDowell said.

Chiggers typically exit the host soon after they've fed and do not burrow into the skin. Because of this, he said the home remedy of applying nail polish to suffocate them or bleach to kill them will only potentially add to the skin irritation.

"There are a number of ways you can try to relieve the itch, but once you're bitten there is no stopping the reaction," he said.

CHIGGER Page 4B

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OUTDOORS

Stick baits shine as temps climb

OUTDOORS Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

The slick surface of the lake was disrupted by skipping shrimp and the familiar sound of trout crashing the helpless crustaceans. Each cast with a soft plastic was met the familiar thump of an aggressive fish that thought they were much larger than they really were. One small trout after another continued to hammer the jigs and also continued to be too small.

The next logical thought for catching bigger fish was to go to a topwater plug, which usually works well under these circumstances. Again the topwater plugs were struck repeatedly by the small fish and occasionally by what appeared to be much better fish. The problem with the topwater plug was the better fish would not come all the way up to the surface and completely take the offering, instead they would just blow up on the plug leaving each angler waiting in suspense to see if the fish would actually come back and finish the job.

One blow up after another without a hook up on a better fish was more than anyone could stand, there had to be another lure that would produce more hook ups and better fish. At long last an old discontinued favorite was brought back out of retirement; the stick bait was now the lure of choice. This particular bait was a Bill Lewis model called a "Slapstick", there are others like "Long A's" and "Rogues" that work just as well. Stick baits can be worked in variety of different ways from just under the surface to as deep as a couple of feet. These plugs have a lip on the front of them that causes the bait to dart under the surface and have a side to side wobble that drives fish crazy. Under these conditions when the fish wouldn't take the surface offering the stick bait works like magic.

For many years anglers down south have been weighting their topwater plugs so they would sit down in the water with just the top of the plug above the surface when the plug was not being retrieved.

As the popularity of these plugs grew many more saltwater manufacturers began to make their own variations of these plugs, now there plenty to choose from. There are always some really big trout that are caught each year on the stick baits and for whatever reason most of those fish are caught during the summer. Truth be known these plugs can be used anytime during the year and produce results. I am not sure why these plugs are not used more during the winter and early spring, they do well getting sluggish fish to give a reaction strike. I guess with the popularity of the baits like the Corky, Catch 2000, Catch 5 and others makes the versatile stick bait a second stringer.

This summer there will come a time when you just can't get those fish to commit to a topwater and you know there are some big fish in the area. This is a perfect time to pull the old stick bait out of retirement and go "old school" on the fish. I am sure you will be pleasantly surprised at the results.

'The Lakes' Fishing

• Toledo Bend Fishing Report

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 75 degrees; 0.19 feet above pool. Water level still above normal pool, with eleven flood gates open and still more water coming down from up north. Bass are good in 1-20 feet of water hitting your favorite way to fish. There was a big bass tournament this past weekend and there was four bass over 10 pounds caught. Shallow fish coming on spinnerbaits and chatterbaits and little top water baits for the first couple of hours in the morning. Then you can pick up a shallow running crankbait and Texas rig and fish from 8-12 feet. The next depth is from 14-20 feet, these fish coming on big crankbaits and Carolina rigs. The crappie fishing is just fair due to the current running in the lake. There are some crappie shallow, around docks, but most are running from 12-18 feet. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• Sam Rayburn

GOOD. Water stained; 75 degrees; 5.29 feet above pool. Water clarity is muddy up the river and creeks, clearing south on the main lake. Lots of freshwater with bass in the brush and trees. Jigs and soft plastics are standard, but spinnerbaits and small crankbaits in some areas. Bass on humps and pockets Carolina rigs and big crankbaits. Crappie are moving around a lot because of the freshwater. Some are still shallow and others are on timber and brush in 20-27 feet using minnows and jigs. Catfish are moving to the points and creek channels on cut bait. White bass are roaming the points using crankbaits and spoons the best. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service. Water is currently 5.1 feet high and rising 2 inches every 12 hours.

Report by Captain Hank Harrison, Double H Precision Fishing.

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

• Sabine Lake

GOOD. 72 degrees. Speckled trout and slot redfish are biting in the jetty near the rocks with popping corks under live shrimp. Slot redfish, few trout, flounder, drum and sheepshead are being caught fishing rock piles and shell banks. Still an influx of water coming in from the river, so we will be fishing the deep water where the salinity is higher.

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

• Bolivar

GOOD. 74 degrees. Water levels are normalizing, except for a few big tide changes. The best bite conditions this week will be on edges of the deeper spots holding saltier water. Not to sound like a broken record, people are catching plenty of redfish of varying sizes everywhere! Sand trout, sheepshead, black drum, speckled trout, and crabs caught along the jetty with more stingrays and sharks.

The surf is producing black drum, gafftop, stingrays, and bigger sharks along the whole peninsula. People were using all kinds of different things for bait this past week with good results. We did sell out of live shrimp this past week with plenty in stock.

Report by Captain Shane Rilal, North Jetty Bait Camp.

• Trinity Bay

SLOW. 80 degrees. The bay is fresh and off-colored. A few fish are being caught near Bayport, and inside Clear Lake. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Redfish being caught on WACKy Shad XL are starting to show back up slowly but surely by the ship channel. Good weather ahead of us, we are in for a great season. Trout will follow as soon as the salinity level returns as for the sheepshead and flounder. Drum are in abundance around rocks off the ship channel. Be prepared and always wear your kill switch when under way. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• Galveston Bay

SLOW. 84 degrees. Lots of freshwater are still in the bay. A few black drum and trout being caught near Moses Lake. Some



The Record's outdoors columnist Capt. Chuck Uzzle displays a hefty redfish caught near the shoreline on Sabine Lake.

black drum in the wells, using live shrimp fished on the bottom. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

GOOD. 83 degrees. The freshwater is not affecting the trout bite! Caught a couple limits and many undersized trout on top waters, Fish Smack popping cork with Marker 54 Glide Shrimp, and Deadly Dudley lures paired with a Yellow Mouth Baits jig head all caught fish. Report by Captain Shane Rilal, North Jetty Bait Camp. Surface water temperature 78 degrees in East Galveston Bay. Water clarity stirred up more than usual with all the freshwater entering the bay system from the heavy rains up above us. The further we ventured east, the more muddied up the water became. This week we had a few days with lighter than normal winds and we found fish in our typical spring-time spots. We are still finding good numbers of solid trout on the Shorelines over shell pockets, where we have good tide movement, as well as Redfish along the grass lines and over shells with the higher tides. If you see bait flipping on the surface the fish are close by, if not, you are best to move on to another spot, after making a few casts. The lighter the jig head the better, 1/16 to 1/4, determined by the wind and current, and tails without paddles, are still performing the best, as we were utilizing Ana-

coming on strong as well, enticing some nice catches this week, but not as durable as the Glide Shrimp. The Topwater bite has also been good when utilized on our early morning and late afternoon trips, so if you like throwing walking baits, now is the perfect time to get on the water and make it happen. We did have one day where we ventured out to an open water reef and it did produce some trout action for us, so that bite should get better as we progress into more of a summertime pattern. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC.

• West Galveston Bay

GOOD. 83 degrees. Birds are working over schools of speckled trout, sand trout, and gafftop. Waders still catching the better fish, especially those throwing live croaker. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• Freeport

GOOD. 82 degrees. Fishing has been steady with trout, redfish, sheepshead, drum, and flounder around the San Luis Pass. Bastrop Bay, Christmas Bay, Chocolate Bay and the West end of Galveston Bay have been good for trout, gafftop and redfish fishing under the birds using shrimp under a four horseman pop n cork or gulf shrimp.

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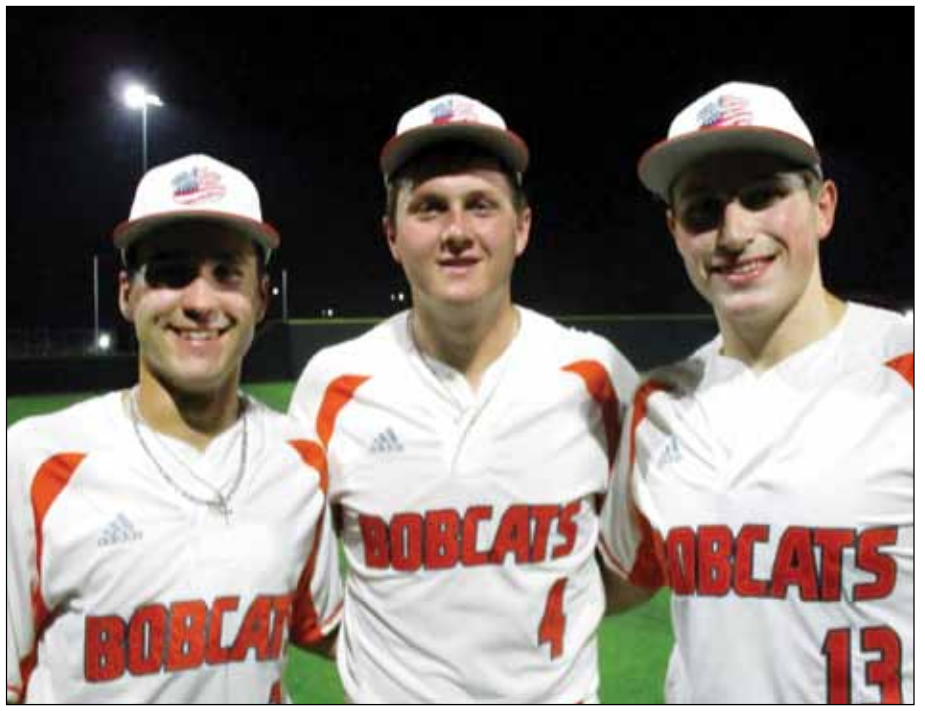
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Kaleb Menard tossed five very good innings to earn the victory in the Bobcats' clinching win over Rockdale. **RECORD PHOTOS: Dan Perrine**



Matthew Johnson started a two run rally with a hit, Kyle Michael singled to drive in a run, and pitcher Brycen Tait got the win for Orangefield in the first game against Rockdale.

Bobcats advance From Page 1B



Orangefield scored three runs in the first inning on Thursday and almost a fourth as Camden Fountain was tagged out at home on a close play to end the inning.

Dearing with the first run of the game. Kyle Michael singled to bring home Cheek to give Orangefield a 2-0 lead.

The bottom third of the Bobcat batting order began the bottom of the second. Matthew Johnson singled to left field and Carson Worthy got on base via an errant throw by the Tiger pitcher Mario Casarez on a comebacker to the mound. Mason Houghton ran for Worthy.

Adam Tran executed a sacrifice bunt with two strikes on him to move Johnson and Houghton to third and second. Smith hit a sacrifice fly to left field that scored Johnson with the Bobcats' third run.

Casarez is the Rockdale shortstop when he is not pitching, and his backup made a mental error when Dearing grounded to short with two outs by throwing home instead of first base for an inning ending force out. Houghton made a good slide to the plate, and the Tiger catcher could not hold the ball to make the tag allowing Mason to score giving Orangefield a 4-0 advantage.

The Tigers tried to claw back in the top of the fourth inning collecting four hits and tallying their only run. The rally may have been more had it not been for an excellent throw by Bobcat catcher Carson Worthy to erase a Rockdale base runner trying to steal second.

The Bobcats threatened in their half of the fourth when Tran walked and Dearing was hit by a pitch after which a wild pitch moved both into scoring position. Cheek almost got two rbis when he smashed a line drive but unfortunately almost right at the Tiger second baseman for the third out of the inning.

Tait had an air tight defense behind him throughout the night. Cheek made four putouts in right field requiring long runs to make the catches, and Fregia turned a nifty double play on a ground ball he

fielded near second where he touched the bag then relayed to first base to Camden Fountain to close the sixth inning for Rockdale.

"The main thing is we got it done. First two innings we had some good two out hits that tacked on some extra runs. We had some bad at bats in the middle of the game. It's good when we can come away with a win when we're not playing our best," Coach Erickson analyzed.

The second game played on Thursday afternoon started much like the first one did the night before with Orangefield jumping out to an early lead. The Bobcats brought their grade "A" bunting game to the ball park as seven times they reached base by bunting.

The first three Orangefield hitters in the top of the first Kane Smith, Cameron Dearing, and Logan Cheek got to first after laying down bunts. All three would eventually score as the Bobcats took a 3-0 lead before Rockdale had even batted.

The lead was increased to five runs in the third inning. Kyle Michael walked with two outs, Camden Fountain got on because of a Tiger error, and Matthew Johnson brought them both home with a triple to center that made the score 5-0 in favor of Orangefield.

Bobcat starting pitcher Kaleb Menard retired the first seven Tigers he faced before surrendering back to back singles with one out in the bottom of the third. A third straight hit was avoided when Dearing in left field just missed catching a low liner but retrieved the ball quickly and threw to Johnson at third base for a force out on the lead Rockdale runner.

Layton Mogford doubled to right center bringing home two runs for the Tigers to cut the Orangefield lead to 5-2. Mogford rounded second base too far and was thrown out

diving back to the bag to end the inning.

The Bobcats answered with a run in the top of the fourth as Adam Tran reached base on a bunt. Two ground outs got Tran to third where he scored easily on Cheeks' double to the opposite field just inside the left field line.

Menard experienced some control issues in the bottom half of that inning walking two Tigers after two were out. He did throw a beautiful curve on a three two pitch that got a big swing and a miss to end the threat to keep the score 6-2 in the Bobcats favor after four innings.

Mogford started the sixth for Rockdale with his second hit of the game, and Mario Casarez walked resulting in Menard exiting from the mound. Garrett Rawls came on in relief.

Rawls went to three, two on Mason Willard before getting him to fly to Smith in center for the first out of the inning. The tall right hander then struck out the next Tiger batter and got a routine ground-er to Tran at second to remedy the situation and preserve Orangefield's four run margin.

Cheek led off the top of the seventh for the Bobcats with his third hit of the game. Caleb Fregia bunted safely, and Michael hit a fly ball to left that the Tiger outfielder lost in the sun resulting in a two run double that scored Cheek and Fregia.

Kamden Hare ran for Michael. Hare scored to make it 9-2 when Camden Fountain bunted to third base and the throw to first which was being covered by the Rockdale second baseman who collided with Fountain running to first resulted in an error.

The Tigers threatened by loading the bases with one out in the bottom of the seventh. Rawls induced a ground ball to short which Fregia fielded, then tossed to Tran at second, who relayed to Fountain at first for a game ending, series ending dou-

ble play.

"Kaleb Menard was a little frustrated with the tighter strike zone in this second game. Kaleb did fine with it and gave us five strong innings. Garrett Rawls came in with two on nobody out and got us out of a jam with no runs that was huge," Erickson indicated. Rockdale came into the series averaging about seven runs a

game while the Bobcat pitchers limited the Tigers to just three total runs in the series.

Making it to the fifth round of the post season for the first time under Coach Erickson was a pre-season goal for the Orangefield Bobcats. Erickson elaborated, "It's been kind of a hurdle we've been trying to get over, and these guys set a

goal early on to win the region. They've set themselves up to try to do that next week, so I couldn't be more proud of them."

The opponent for Orangefield in the Regional Finals will be the Franklin Lions. Orangefield and Franklin will play a best of three game series with all the games at the Lufkin High School baseball field. Game 1 will be Thursday.

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With over 450 applications submitted to DOW for participation in the apprenticeship program, 10 were chosen. Of the 10 chosen, 3 were Orangefield High School Students. Colin Dale Dorman, Ethan Christopher Blackburn, and Ezequiel Yanez Macias were picked to be recipients into the DOW Apprenticeship Program.

Congratulations to DOW for choosing three fantastic young men and congratulations to Colin, Ethan, and Ezequiel for this life-changing opportunity.

Orangefield Bobcats baseball on historic run



The Orangefield Bobcats celebrate making it to the fifth round of the state baseball playoffs after sweeping Rockdale in two games. The Orangefield Bobcats tamed the Rockdale Tigers last week to advance to the fifth round of the UIL state baseball playoffs for the first time since 1990.

RECORD PHOTOS: Dan Perrine

Ava Dyer Signs With LSU for Colorguard



Orangefield High School senior, Ava Dyer, signed to be a part of the preliminary colorguard team at LSU. She is a leader for the OHS colorguard, serving as captain. She is excited to continue at the collegiate level.

Chigger season From Page 1B

"The deal is done. So, the best practice is avoidance and prevention."

Don't be a victim: avoid chigger bites

Avoiding habitats with high probabilities of supporting chiggers, using preventive measures with repellents, appropriate clothing and post-exposure cleansing can reduce the impacts of chiggers.

Chigger infestations can be random, "wrong place at the wrong time," occurrences for hikers, trail walkers or anyone venturing off the beaten path, McDowell said. Often, they prefer undisturbed, unkept areas with taller grasses, vines and other low-growing plants. The vegetation provides cover for host animals of chiggers and protection from sunlight and heat.

McDowell said those overgrown areas, especially

when combined with moisture, can create ideal conditions for infestations. So, he cautions about areas with tall grass around ponds, creeks and rivers as they could be problematic. Managing vegetation to prevent chigger harborage in areas with high human use such as parks or around homes can reduce exposure. But occasionally even manicured lawns can harbor chiggers under the right conditions, McDowell said.


Taking care when returning indoors

Given their randomness, he suggests removing clothes worn outdoors and showering as soon as you get home from any trek through taller grass or after activities in areas that might be hospitable to chiggers. Use a washcloth or something abrasive that will scrub them away.

Quick action can reduce the number and severity of bites.

"If you've been in an area that you think might have chiggers, the best thing to do is to take a shower as soon as possible," he said. "Scrubbing with soapy water will take care of any chiggers on your body, but again, it may be too late to address bites that occurred."


To reduce the chances of exposure to chiggers, McDowell recommends wearing long pants, tucking pant legs into socks, and using repellents or deterrents like DEET, sulfur powder or plant-based oils. Permethrin-based products can be used on clothing for a longer residual. These products should not be applied to the skin and only directly applied to clothing and allowed to dry before wearing.




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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **EVA ANN SMITH**, Deceased, were issued on the **14TH day of MAY, 2024**, in Cause No. **P19996**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, Probate Division to: **KEEGAN SMITH**.

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

Keegan Smith
5805 Meadow Way
Beaumont, TX 77707

DATED the 21st day of May, 2024.

Eric Peveto
Eric Peveto
Attorney for:
Carol Sue Broussard Hall
State Bar No.: 24004859
118 Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)883-0220
Email: emily@pevetolawfirm.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **LINDA GAIL CORLEY**, Deceased, were issued on **MARCH 27, 2024**, in Docket No. **P19942**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **KAREN DENISE BRADLEY**.

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: **Paul M. Fukuda**
Attorney At Law
312 Border Street
Orange, TX 77630

DATED the 23rd day of May, 2024.

Paul M. Fukuda
Paul M. Fukuda
Attorney for:
Karen Denise Bradley
State Bar No.: 00789915
312 Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)883-4357
Email: pfukudalawoffice@yahoo.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **MICHAEL JOE BEAN**, Deceased, were issued on **DECEMBER 19, 2023**, in Docket No. **P19814**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **MARK BEAN**.

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: **Paul M. Fukuda**
Attorney At Law
312 Border Street
Orange, TX 77630

DATED the 23rd day of May, 2024.

Paul M. Fukuda
Paul M. Fukuda
Attorney for:
Mark Bean
State Bar No.: 00789915
312 Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)883-4357
Email: pfukudalawoffice@yahoo.com

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **MARY MARGARET PAYNE**, Deceased, were issued on **MAY 15, 2024**, in Docket No. **P19764**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **STEPHANIE LYNN DARLING**.

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: **Paul M. Fukuda**
Attorney At Law
312 Border Street
Orange, TX 77630

DATED the 23rd day of May, 2024.

Paul M. Fukuda
Paul M. Fukuda
Attorney for:
Stephanie Lynn Darling
State Bar No.: 00789915
312 Border Street
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)883-4357
Email: pfukudalawoffice@yahoo.com

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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

ANGELA KAY FEARS, Deceased
Cause No. P19520010
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 **15TH day of MAY, 2024**, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **ANGELA KAY FEARS, 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 the **15TH day of MAY, 2024**.

BRANDY ROBERTSON,
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas

By: Danielle Kendrick, Deputy
Danielle Kendrick

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

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Not My DIY Project

Cara Ray
Contributor
desiringGod.org

Philippians 1:6 might not be the first verse that comes to mind when we think about marriage, but perhaps we should remember it more often. From his prison cell, Paul wrote to his gospel partners in Philippi, reminding them of God's ongoing work in their lives: "I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

Perhaps you've seen this verse plastered on coffee mugs or heard it frequently quoted. It's one of the Bible's most beloved verses, and rightly so. We're encouraged by the promise that God is not finished with us yet and won't leave his work unfinished. But our familiarity with this verse might cause us to skim past it, feeling unaffected by the light it shines on our everyday lives, especially marriage.

Philippians 1:6 guarantees us that God saves, transforms, and completes genuine believers. While this verse is not explicitly about marriage, we can draw parallels between God's work in us as individuals and his work in our believing spouses.

When conflict arises in marriage, or we're dissatisfied with our husband's spiritual growth, our default setting is not to trust that God will use even this to fulfill the good work he began in his life. Instead, we might offer not-so-subtle suggestions for ways our husband could improve his



How a Wife Entrusts Her Husband to God

spiritual practices. For starters, he could wake up earlier to be in the word, lead the family in more regular devotions, or get involved in a men's Bible study. Secretly, we might compare him to other, more godly husbands, wallow in discontent, and let it deepen.

But this is where Philippians 1:6 can give us renewed hope and confidence, assuring us that God is indeed at work in our spouse's life.

Sure Confidence

Paul asserts in verse 6 that he is "sure of this." Some translations say he is "confident of this very thing." Paul rooted his confidence in God, resulting in a fixed expectation that God would finish what he had begun in the Philippians' lives. Sure of this.

However, as Christian wives, "confidence" might not be the first word we'd choose to describe our longing for our husband's spiritual growth and maturity. We might choose less solid-sounding words, like

"dream" or "wish," preferring not to set ourselves up for disappointment. When he zones out on his phone more than he engages with God's word, "concern" more accurately reflects our heart than "confidence." When negative patterns seem to be setting in, our response might be, "What can I do to fix this?"

Philippians 1:6 helps us zoom out and see the bigger picture. In this short verse, Paul gives us an overview of salvation. Even though the Philippians were faithful gospel partners, he based his confidence not on their ability to complete the good work of their salvation, but on God's. Paul saw God in their conversion (beginning their lives), then in their sanctification, (where the ongoing work of growth was taking place), and finally in their glorification (where one day the work would be complete). This is the past, present, and future progression of the Christian faith. Paul's confidence that no Christian would be left incomplete should be ours too.

When we find ourselves

being quick to criticize our husbands, we can remember this bigger picture: if he's a true believer, God is at work in his life. So often, we try to draw conclusions based on the evidence we see right now. Yet Paul found confidence in the God who knows the beginning from the end. The one who directs all human history sovereignly orchestrates both current circumstances and future events. He is the author and finisher of our faith, so you can trust that when God truly starts his work on a man, he will bring him through all the uncomfortable middle parts to completion.

Not My DIY Project

There aren't many things in life we're guaranteed will get done to perfection. You might hope that your husband will finish all his projects around the house, but you might not be confident he will. However, the project of his faith, which is yet unfinished, will one day be completed because God is doing it.

How does this practically

take place? Paul writes in Philippians 2:12-13, "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." There's a mysterious cooperation between us and God as we grow in Christlikeness: by faith, we work out what God works in. But we can only work out our salvation, not our husband's. We can encourage him and pray for him, but this truth frees us from seeing our husbands as our own DIY projects.

We know the Holy Spirit often uses wives to convict a husband of sin and lead him to salvation and greater holiness (1 Peter 3:1). But Peter encourages wives that it is their conduct, more than their comments, that wins over a man. A gentle and quiet spirit often speaks loudest to both believing and unbelieving husbands. A wife with this spirit knows she doesn't have to voice all her concerns about her husband to her husband. Instead, she can turn to God in prayer, casting her cares on him, and patiently await the opportune time to speak an upbuilding word.

Philippians 1:6 reminds us that salvation is all a work of grace. This doesn't mean we shouldn't have honest conversations with our spouse about spiritual growth and how we can encourage one another to pursue Christlikeness. But the heart of our calling is not to fix him or point out all that's lacking in him or carry the burden for his sanctification, but rather conduct ourselves with a quiet confidence that God will.

When can we expect this work to be done in his life?

Paul says it will be complete "at the day of Jesus Christ." The phrase "the day of Jesus Christ" refers to the final day of judgment and reward. Believers eagerly await this day when Christ will return and bring his reward with him (Revelation 22:12). Martin Luther reportedly said, "There are only two days in my calendar: this day and that Day."

This might feel like the good news, bad news aspect of this verse. While we're encouraged that God will complete what he started in our husbands on that day, we'd like those changes to take place as soon as possible, please. Meanwhile, however, a wonderful thing happens as we wait for that day: we're becoming sanctified too.

As we meditate on this verse and the rest of God's word, Paul's settled confidence in God's saving, sanctifying, and completing power becomes our own. Over time, we see evidence of growth in our lives as we become more dependent on God and less on ourselves. Where we were prone to criticize or worry, we learn there's great freedom and peace in casting those cares on God. In all the uncomfortable middle parts of our lives, we see God has been at work all along, completing his good work in us.

We don't know when that day will come, but it's closer now than when you started reading this article. While we long for sanctification to have its full and perfect work in our husband's life, we learn to trust God, pray faithfully, and wait confidently. We know God will bring about his perfect results in his perfect time.

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