

# County Record

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Week of Wednesday, October 16, 2024

## LSCO tower creates beacon in downtown Orange



LSCO President Dr. Tom Johnson will host a grand opening of the new Academic Building on Wednesday, November 6, at 2 p.m.

### MARGARET TOAL For The Record

The tower is already lit at night with the letters LSCO beaming across downtown and providing a new landmark, plus a beacon for higher education.

For more than 110 years, the dome of First Presbyterian Church, and a few years later, the dome of First Baptist Church have been the eye-catchers of Orange. LSCO's new Academic Building with its tower is now the focus.

LSCO President Dr. Tom Johnson will host a grand opening of the new Academic Building on Wednesday, November 6, at 2 p.m. The event is being coordinated with the school's anniversary as "55 Years of Success in 55,000 Square Feet," the amount of room in the new building.

And the tower isn't the only landmark of the college in downtown. LSCO is adding on to, and renovating the historic red brick First Baptist Church after it was abandoned by

the congregation in 2008 for a new building. The old church was donated to the college by the Stark Foundation, which preserved the building for future use.

The latest additions add to the LSCO campus expansions, turning the old downtown area into a center of higher education, culture, and government.

During the past year, the school has expanded to open a satellite campus in Lumberton. Also, LSCO is working with other schools in the Texas State University System for an education center in Livingston in Polk County.

It's a long and amazing evolution of a college created in a vacant World War II elementary school as a branch of the old Lamar Tech, now Lamar University.

The new Academic Center has been built with \$58 million allocated by the Texas Legislature to help accommodate the growth of the school.

LSCO 2A



Hollywood actress/talent manager Dolores Cantu returned home last weekend for what she said would likely be the last time for such an event. Saturday, she attended the West Orange Chiefs reunion that was held at Niblett's Bluff Park in Vinton, La. The community center was full of former classmates. She graduated in 1968 and joined a multi-class reunion last week hosted by the class of 1974. Cantu turned 75 in August. She is a member of the West Orange Chief's Class of 1968 seen above.

RECORD PHOTO: Penny Leleux

## DOLORES CANTU: The Reunion Tour

### PENNYLELEUX For The Record

Ten years ago, Dolores Cantu returned home from Hollywood for a West Orange Chiefs class reunion. Last weekend she returned for what she said would likely be the last time for such an event. Cantu turned 75 in August. She graduated in 1968 and joined a multi-class reunion last week hosted by the class of 1974.

Friday, she embarked on a tour of West Orange to see if her childhood home still stood, returned to the place she went to high school and stopped at Dairy Queen to share memories.

At each of the locations she shot videos for social media, reminiscing about her life growing up in West Orange.

Her home was still there, tucked away in a neighborhood behind



Dolores Cantu poses in front of the Chiefs teepee at the multi-class reunion Saturday at Niblett's Bluff Park in Vinton.

Danny's grocery store. It area received in 2008, was in great shape considering the devastation that when Hurricane Ike pushed in so much water

that fish were stuck in hurricane fences several feet off the ground. Though many houses in the area seemed to be in disrepair and some abandoned, her former home seems to have been well cared for.

"This is where I started," said Cantu in a video. "My mother would call the paper when I was coming home. She was my first PR person. People wondered how I got on the news...my mother," Cantu laughed. She said her mother wasn't happy when she left home at 17 after graduating, but she was when she became a flight attendant.

This house has been here since I was 13 and it's been here through every hurricane, every tornado, and everything that has been through here.

"I had a birthday party when I was 16 and that was the last birthday party

CANTU Page 5A

## Kree Harrison to perform at BC Classic Reunion

### PENNYLELEUX For The Record

Cindy Claybar and Judge John Gothia will be presented as this year's Outstanding Alumni at the high school homecoming football game Oct. 18 by the Bridge City High School Alumni Association. They will be honored on Saturday at the Classic Cardinal Reunion.

American Idol season 12 runner-up Kree Harrison will entertain with an acoustic set of just her and her guitar player.

"I wanted it to be kind of intimate," she said. I've done the full band shows here but I wanted to take advantage of a kind of unplugged set."

"I'm excited because it's totally my wheelhouse from the 50s to 70s... that's the music that I absolutely love," she said. "It's kinda my medicine, so I'll be able to do some covers that you know was part of that era, but then also some new music that I've been writing."



Kree Harrison American Idol Runner-Up

Harrison has released two albums since her appearance on Idol and is currently working on music for her third studio album, so attendees may get a chance to be some of the first to hear some new tunes. She said she has been splitting her time between Bridge City and Nashville for the last several years and is currently in a relationship with someone in Texas but declined to disclose his name at this time. She hinted there could be some Easter eggs concerning his identity in the songs on which she is currently working. She has played in the area over the last few years, around the holidays, because it gives her the opportunity to visit with family at the same time.

Of the two honorees, Cindy Sandefer Claybar is the daughter of the late Morris and Virginia Sandefer and is a member of the class of 1969. She received teaching degrees in multiple subjects from Lamar University and taught in local schools for

45 years, retiring from LCM-CISD in 2012. Her summer art programs have flourished in Orange County for over forty years.

She helped develop two outdoor environmental classrooms and was recognized in National Park Magazine for a Federal Grant awarded to Bridge City Intermediate for C.A.R.E Park. She initiated the development of an interpretive nature trail for people with physical challenges at Claiborne West Park in Orange County. Claybar has received many awards in her career including Teacher of the Year and Conservation Teacher of the Year.

Claybar married Ambrose Claybar Jr. in 1972. They have a daughter, Angelique Claybar; a son and daughter-in law, Joey, and Melanie Claybar; and two grandsons, Carter, and Colton Claybar. Her siblings, Morris Sandefer and Cathy San-

BCHS HOMECOMING PAGE 3A

# Presidential, local voting begins Monday

**MARGARET TOAL**  
**For The Record**

Orange County voters will be able to go to polls on a Saturday and a Sunday this year as early voting for the tight presidential race, plus others, will start on Monday, October 21.

Local races for some in the county will be to elect directors for the governing boards of Orange County Emergency Services Districts 1 and 3. The districts provide fire and rescue services to areas in the county. District 1 is for Vidor and District 3 is for Little Cypress.

Also, the Orangefield

ISD board of trustees has three open spots with only one seat contested. The Vidor ISD is having a \$98 million bond election for new classrooms and other improvements.

The early voting sites are the Orange Public Library in downtown Orange, Mauriceville Community Center on Cohenour Road off Highway 62 North, the Orange County Airport on Highway 87 South, and the Raymond Gould Community Center on Claiborne Street in Vidor.

The hours are 7 a.m. through 7 p.m. on Monday, October 21, through Friday, October 25. Then on Satur-

day, October 26, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., and again on Sunday, October 27, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Polls will then be open 12 hours a day, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., on Monday, October 28, through Friday, November 1.

Registered Orange County voters may cast a ballot at any of the early voting sites. Texas law requires voters to show an official photo identification like driver's license, DPS identification card, U.S. passport, or Texas concealed weapon card. Student identifications are not accepted.

The presidential race between Republican Donald

Trump, who held the position between 2017-2021, and Vice President Kamala Harris is drawing the most attention.

Texas also has a senatorial race that has become close in polls as incumbent U.S. Senator Ted Cruz, a Republican, is facing Democratic challenger Colin Allred, a lawyer and U.S. representative. Also vying for senator is Libertarian Ted Brown.

Locally, Orange County's incumbent state representative, Dade Phelan, and state senator, Robert Nichols, are unopposed Republi-

cans on the ballot. All local county offices have Republicans running unopposed.

The Orangefield ISD board of trustees has three candidates running at-large for Place III with no incumbent running. The candidates are Richard Lasseigne Jr., Dustin Logan, and Jude Graffagnino. Incumbents Chris Kovatch for Place VI and Brad Frye for Place VII are unopposed.

Orange County Emergency Services District 1 and District 3 voters will choose two directors at-large. The candidates for District 1 are Wyatt Boyett,

Ronnie Herrera, and Rose Luca. For District 3, candidates are Scott McDonald, Jeremy Kent Nichols, Cathy Drake, and Jeff Braus.

Election Day is Tuesday, November 5, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Orange County now allows registered voters to cast a ballot at any site on election day.

Orange County has election machines that give each voter a paper copy of their votes with the paper copy being deposited in a lock box after the voter approves the printout.

## LSCO new Academic Building

From Page 1

The school offers two-year degrees plus a number of professional certificates in studies involving local industries and health care. The college also works with local high schools to give college courses to select students so they can earn higher education credits before graduating from high school.

According to information from LSCO, the school awarded 906 total degrees to 677 different students during commencement ceremonies in the fall of 2023 and the summer of 2024. The graduates had an average GPA of 3.18, with 67 percent of them from Orange County. The youngest graduate was age 16. Seventy-five percent of those graduates are the first in their families to get college degrees.

During the past five years, the Texas Legislature has allowed the college to cut tuition plus provided money for expansion. Donations from local industries have helped in subjects to educate students to work on a variety of instruments and equipment used in the region. Some of the industrial jobs may have beginning pay in six figures.

The college had an enrollment of 2,395 in the fall of 2023 and went up to 3,154 in 2024 for a growth of 32 percent. Fifty-two percent of students are enrolled in technical programs while 48 percent are in academic programs, with the academic classes being able to transfer to a four-year university.

The enrollment grew 32 percent in those five years with a 64 percent increase in technical studies students, up from 1,014 to 1,655.

Of the students in the fall of 2023, 557 percent were from Orange County, 16 percent from Hardin County, 7 percent from Jasper

County, 6 percent from Louisiana Parishes, 1 percent from Newton County, 1 percent from Polk County, and 5 percent from other places.

LSCO has added 17 new programs of study during the past five years and has graduated 2,164 students. The total degrees and certificates award in that time period total 3,601.

The new Academic Building faces Green Avenue and is built on the block between Fourth and Fifth streets. The block once housed the old Orange National Bank, including a 1970s multi-storied mirrored building that was demolished for the new construction.

The previous academic building faced Front Street at Fourth. Through decades, it had been a retail-warehouse building and then a bowling alley. Lamar-Orange acquired it after the original campus in the old school burned.

That remodeled building at first housed classrooms, offices, and a recreation-lounge area. Some halls still had slopes from the bowling alley. As the campus grew into other buildings, the one on Front ended up with only academic classrooms.

But damages after hurricanes in the past 19 years became too many to repair. The new building on Green Avenue is its shiny, lit successor.

In remembrance of LSCO's modest roots, this past year the student recreation center was named in honor of the late Dr. Joe Ben Welch. He began as one of the first teachers at the original campus in 1969 and soon became campus president. In that position, he led the college into downtown and eventual expansion.

LSCO President Dr. Michael Shahan guided the

campus through the addition of more construction and programs. Dr. Johnson, the current president, took the position after Shahan retired.

In those past six years, Dr. Johnson has helped stimulate more growth for academics and training skills. But it hasn't all been educational. Student activities have increased and the students are more involved in community projects. The fall and spring festivals on campus draw lots of kids and families in addition to the students.

Dr. Johnson also originated a campus mascot by giving people a chance to vote. Gator was the big winner. The first competitive team was the LSCO Gator Bass team, which drew national attention by leading some of the major universities in bass fishing competition.

## Place your order now for Durham/Ellis pecans

Wesley United Methodist Church will be selling this year's crop of Durham/Ellis pecans and walnuts, delivery early November. Pecan halves or pieces \$13.00 per pound, walnuts \$8.50 per pound. Call Jan 409/734-8036 to place an order or for additional information.

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# BCHS homecoming reunion

From Page 1

defer Hatton are also graduates of Bridge City High School.

Claybar hopes she has instilled in her students both the love of art and community service. "What you do for yourself dies with you when you leave this world, what you do for others and community exists far after you are gone." Sir Ken Robinson

John Gothia graduated from Bridge City High School in 1980 then attended Lamar University. He worked for Altria for 32 years as a sales manager then retired to pursue local political service. He was elected Orange County Commissioner Pct 3 in 2017 serving two years until he was elected Orange County Judge in 2019. He has held that position since.

Gothia is married to Glynis Wright, also a BCBS graduate and a retired teacher who taught at Bridge City Elementary. They have two sons, Hunter who is a graduate of Lamar Institute of Technology and Forrest, a graduate of Texas A&M University



Kree Harrison has released two albums since her appearance on Idol and is currently working on music for her third studio album, so attendees may get a chance to be some of the first to hear some new tunes.

Law School. The Gothias are proud grandparents of Emily Gothia. They are active members of Faith Methodist Church in Orange.

Gothia is a past President for Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission and was named Citizen of the Year in 2012 by the Greater Orange

Area Chamber of Commerce. John is currently involved in Sabine Chapter Ducks Unlimited, American Red Cross Club, and past chairman of United Way. He is also a past Chairman of the Board for the Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce and served as co-chairman for the Bass-

master Elite Fishing Tournaments since 2013.

While this is a private event, Harrison will be performing in the area again on Dec. 7 at Cotton's Cay with the Alley Cats, Cajun Blend and some other musical acts in a fundraiser for Teens in Need. More details on that later.



## Babin pair celebrates 50th Anniversary

Dan and Sheila Babin of Orangefield celebrated 50 years of marriage Saturday with a vow renewal at St. Helen Catholic Church and celebratory party with approx. 75 friends and family members at the Bridge City Community Center.

# Chase, police shootout ends with death near school

MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record

A cell phone video by a man in a pickup truck facing Green Avenue showed a school bus traveling eastbound on Green seconds before a police shootout started that left a man dead.

The Texas Department of Public Safety said the man led police on a high-speed chase along Texas Highway 87 after Bridge City police got a call about shots being fired in a neighborhood.

As of Tuesday evening, authorities had not released the identification of the victim. The chase and shooting left two officers injured and they are expected to recover.

DPS Sergeant Shana Clark said the event started shortly before 9 a.m. Tuesday, October 15, in Bridge City.

Police there had the complaint about gunfire with a description of a white pickup truck speeding away. Shortly, a speeding white Dodge Ram pickup traveling east toward Orange on Texas Avenue (Highway 87).

At the time, the new Golden Triangle Polymers petrochemical plant under construction had a "heavy haul" to move huge prefabricated pieces from the Cow Bayou barge landing to the plant's site on Highway 87 between Bridge City and Orange.

The speeding Dodge hit an out-of-county motorcycle officer working traffic control for the heavy haul on the highway. The collision and injured deputy constable brought traffic to a close in both directions at the Cow Bayou Bridge.

Sergeant Clark said the motorcycle officer had "severe leg injuries" that were non-life-threatening.

A number of different law officers had joined the chase as the truck went eastbound on Green Avenue. The truck crashed into a utility pole at the corner of Green and 15th Street, on a part of the



DPS Sergeant Shana Clark

West Orange-Stark Middle School campus, but yards away from buildings.

Sergeant Clark said it

appeared the truck had a flat tire that may have made it crash.

Officers ordered the man to drop the gun and get onto the ground. Clark said the man followed the orders, but while lying down, picked up the gun, a semi-automatic 9 mm rifle, and pointed it toward police. An barrage of about 25 shots were heard on the witness's video recording within seconds.

The video shows an officer limping after the gunfire. Sergeant Clark said the officer had a minor leg

injury either from a bullet or shrapnel.

The middle school, which starts classes at 8:15 every morning, went into a lock-down and parents were notified. No students or staff were near the shooting scene.

Sergeant Clark said investigators have not determined where the driver of the pickup was headed or what his intentions were, but it was fortunate the shooting was not in front of the nearby school buildings.



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## From the Creaux's Nest

### WELCOME TEXANA TOYOTA

Owner of the new **Toyota** dealership, **Rick Jones**, said they intend to play a large part in the community. He's ready to invest time and monetary donations in community projects. **County Judge John Gothia** said he visited with the **General Manager Mike Grewening** and **staff** on Friday and welcomed them to **Orange County**. **Gothia** said they sincerely want to be part of the local community, chamber of commerce and overall involvement. **Jones** also owns other Toyota dealerships as well as G.M. dealerships in New Orleans, Oklahoma City, St. Louis and Raleigh, North Carolina. They are here to do business and we welcome them to our advertising family. Their reputation is that they are a customer friendly business. We invite you to go by and visit with the staff and welcome them to our county and look around at new stock arriving daily.

### TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2014

**Abbot** can't have it both ways. What **Sen. Wendy Davis** is pointing out is that in one case **Abbott** argued that a woman, an amputee suing for employment discrimination, was not disabled because she has a prosthetic (artificial) limb. **Abbott** collected \$10 million in a lawsuit settlement after a tree fell on him in 1984, paralyzing him. Ironically **Abbott** has been the one using the wheelchair as a prop in his television commercials. **President F.D.R.**, the longest serving president in U.S. history, was in a wheelchair, paralyzed from the waist down. The American people never knew that he was in a wheelchair.\*\*\*\*Condolences: **Cupal Morgan**, 78, of Bridge City, passed away Friday, Oct. 10. Born in Orange, **Cupal** was one of the several children born to **Jules and Sadie Carpenter**, Orange pioneers. We had known this beautiful lady for over 50 years and throughout those years she was loved and well cared for by husband **Coy**. In fact, he spoiled her. \*\*\*\***Earl Drake**, 86, died last week. We had known **Earl** and his late wife **Betty** for many years. They were a versatile and interesting couple with many talents and contributed so much to the community. I had known them since those early Jaycee days. **Earl** was responsible for bringing many stars to the annual **Sheriff's Posse Rodeo**. Their daughter **Vickie Brown** has been our dear friend for many years. She was responsible for the caricatures of the "Office Hound" that appeared in the **Opportunity Valley News** many years ago and also those of **Sherlock Breaux** and **the Creaux** on this column. (All are gone now).\*\*\*\* **Texas A&M Health Science Center**, in West Bryan, one of the world's largest and most advanced biopharmaceutical greenhouses, is ready to produce the experimental Ebola drug **Z Mapp** from two million specially grown tobacco plants. Manufacturing now could start producing thousands of doses of the drug annually. This drug is one of a handful of drugs that have shown promise but has yet to be approved for widespread human use.\*\*\*\***A Little About The Natives**. We were saddened to learn that a wonderful, sweet lady, **Gina Cessac**, a Bridge City Middle School employee, is facing bad health problems. She has been diagnosed with Pancreatic cancer. **Gina** is the widow of **Charles Cessac**, who passed away last year. They have three boys. **Gina** is in M.D. Anderson in Houston.\*\*\*\*We saw a video that **Gerald Morris** sent out to his friends thanking them for their prayers. He's much improved but still has a long way to go.\*\*\*\*Our friend **Don Harmon** sadly is not showing improvement and has gotten weaker. He is battling to regain his strength. What a great guy.\*\*\*\*Well, here's good news on **Ms. Pearl Burgess**. A month ago things looked bleak for this good woman. Not only did she suffer with a broken hip, congestive heart ailment and other problems, they injured her good knee at the hospital. Most folks who will soon be 94 would have given up. **Not Pearl**.\*\*\*\*You know you're in a **Redneck Church** if--when the Pastor says, "I'd like to ask **Bubba** to help take up the offering," and five guys and two women stand up.\*\*\*\*Oct. 17 finds a lot of good folks enjoying birthdays. **Mattie Lou Huckabay**, a resident of **The Meadows**, turns 97, **Judge Jimmy Scales**, **Donna's** calm, soft spoken other half, celebrates as does lovely **Linda Heard**, **John's** better half, **Coach Bob Pantes**, BC High School activities director **Cheryl Royal**, **Dr. Wesley Palmer**, **Johnny Dubose**, **Linda Nicks**, **Bebe Ricks**, **James Fontenot** and one great, special lady, longtime friend **Sue Collins** all celebrate. They share birthdays with **Alan Jackson**, 55.\*\*\*\*Oct. 18 are **Mary Everett**, **Emily Hughes**, **Penny Becken** and **Mary Kendrick**. They share birthdays with Happy Days', **Erin Moran**, 53.\*\*\*\*Orange native **Coach O.B. "Bum" Phillips** died on this day in 2012.

### 20 Years Ago-2004

**Shon and JoAnn Branham** became proud grandparents Oct 14. **Alexia Renal Branham** arrived at 9:50 a.m. (Editor's note: Happy belated 20th birthday **Alexia**).\*\*\*\***James "Crocodile" Fontenot** turns 70

on Oct. 17. (Editor's note: **James** would be 90 today).\*\*\*\*The **West Orange-Stark Mustangs** roll over **Anahuac Panthers** 55-12. Sophomore **Earl Thomas** led the Mustangs on the ground churning out 179 yards on 17 carries, with three touchdowns.\*\*\*\***Little Cypress-Mauriceville Bears** beat **Beaumont Central** 16-2. Quarterback **Donald Tardy** passed for 254 yards. Receiver **Ladaricis White** had six catches for 152 yards and a 42 yard touchdown.\*\*\*\*Two former Orange County athletes die in tragedies. **Torrance "T.J." Locks**, a former W.O.-S. football star was shot and killed in Dallas at a party. **T.J.** was 28 years old. Also former Orangefield basketball player **Peter Cesarz**, 23, was one of two pilots killed in an airplane crash in Jefferson City, Missouri. He flew for Pinnacle Airline. They were carrying no passengers at the time.\*\*\*\*Gone but not forgotten: **Frances Belle Martin**, 79, of Bridge City, died Monday, Oct. 18. She worked as a dental assistant for **Dr. Hood** and **Dr. William Liefeste**. \*\*\*\***Charrie Lee Dunn**, 69, of Mauriceville, died Oct. 14. She is survived by her husband **Robert Dunn**, sons **Robert, John and James Dunn**, daughters **Gayla, Rhonda and Shannon**.

### 45 Years Ago-1979

An official Texas historical marker for **Claiborne West** will be erected and the park named for him, on IH-10. The marker made of cast aluminum with Swedish steel effect, measures 27x42 inches and is sponsored by commissioner's court, the historical society, parks board and the **Orange County historical commission**. **West** was born in Franklin County, Tennessee, in 1800. He was one of 58 at the general convention at **Washington-On-The-Brazos**, March 2, 1836, who signed the **Texas Declaration of Independence**. He also helped draft the Texas constitution. **West** was responsible for designation of **Cow Bayou** as a municipality. **Judge Grover Halliburton** was the driving force to establish and acquiring the park.\*\*\*\***Little Cypress-Mauriceville** junior high cheerleaders are **Kim Dunaway, Beth Reach, Kelly Dunaway, Tracie Williamson, Candy Bilbo and Michelle Garcia**.

### A FEW HAPPENINGS

Last week I received a copy of the Presidential Report 2023-24, for **Lamar State College Orange**. **President Tom Johnson's Excellent in Action** manuscript contains a lot of good information that **Margaret** will probably cover in this issue. What impressed me was the quality of the magazine. I was surprised to learn that the entire composition was developed in-house. Very impressive. The **Lamar** staff did a great job on the production.\*\*\*\*Speaking of **LSCO**, the school will celebrate its 55<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the grand opening of the 55,000 sq. ft. academic building on Nov. 6, at 2 p.m. The school is located at 305 N; 4<sup>th</sup> St. and opened in 1969 as **Tilly Tech**.\*\*\*\*The big boy, everyone's friend, **Commissioner Johnny Trahan**, underwent hip surgery in Houston last week. It wasn't a great trip and not a way to celebrate his birthday. **Judge Gothia** visited him over the weekend. **Johnny** will have another surgery this week. A bad trip for the big guy. Our prayers for a quick, successful recovery.\*\*\*\* Nearly 40 years ago, the first comprehensive book of Orange County history was published and sold out. **Dr. Howard Williams**, a local physician who collected local history, compiled the book 'Orange: Gateway to Texas.' The book has long been out of print, but the **Heritage House Museum** has acquired a handful of first edition copies after the printing company closed. The museum is now selling \$10 raffle tickets to win one of the copies. The drawing will be held on December 8. Tickets are available through **Heritage House board members** or at the museum's office, which is open on Mondays through Thursdays.\*\*\*\***CASA** held its gala with a casino night theme. Attendees included **CASA director Codie Smith Vasque, John Taylor, Edie Burch, and Richard Teague**.\*\*\*\***Michelle Belcher** had an excellent adventure in Dallas this past weekend visiting with old college friends and watching the **Longhorns** beat up **Oklahoma**.\*\*\*\***Ken and Sara Rush** came back to Orange County from New York City to go to 50-year high school reunions. Both, **Class of 1974**, one at the old West Orange High and the other at **LC-M**.\*\*\*\* **Brandi Griggs and Justin Rieson** took the kids camping in the fall weather at Lake Sam Rayburn.\*\*\*\*Orange is going to be one degree of **Kevin Bacon** this weekend. The famous star and his brother are bringing their acoustic guitars and harmonies to the stage of the **Lutcher Theater on Saturday night**. Check the theater to see if any tickets are still around.\*\*\*\*I had not heard from **Judge Pat Clark** for a couple of months. Like the groundhog we finally saw his shadow. He has had some health issues. Mostly he has not been mobile. His wheels are doing better so he's starting to get around. You just don't think of **Clark** being under the weather. I don't ever recall of him missing work while he was on the bench.\*\*\*\***Ethel Kennedy, Bobby's** widow died last week at age 96. **Bobby** sired 11 children.\*\*\*\*I got a note from **John B.** who wrote, "It looks like **Elon Musk**, who owns everything else, is trying to purchase a country. He may not have to buy it. He does a lot of government business. If **Trump** is elected he can save **Elon** a lot of red tape."\*\*\*\***In Vero Beach, Mark Dunn**, daughter **Amber** and family, fared pretty good compared to others in Florida. Most was high water. They dodged several tornados but were fortunate enough to not even lose power. Downtown **Vero Beach** was damaged by several direct-hit tornados.\*\*\*\* **Harry's Appliance** will be closed next week due to our friend, **Margie Stephens**, having surgery in Houston. We wish **Margie God speed** and a quick recovery.\*\*\*\*My longtime friend, former Bridge City AD, **Les Johnson**, turns 89 on Oct. 17. He and **Wanda** still walk three miles every day. He would still be coaching if someone would give him a coaching job. He likes the way **Josh Smalley** is coaching and happy he is winning in Bridge City.\*\*\*\***Harry's Appliance** will be closed next week due to our friend, **Margie Stephens**, having surgery in Houston. We wish **Margie God speed** and a quick recovery.

### BREAUX BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days. **Oct.16: Wayne Mulhollan, Barbara Harmon, Brad**

**Brown, Edneshia Johnson, Channing Larkin, Gene McKinley**.\*\*\*\***Oct. 17: Coach Les Johnson, Brittney Stillwell, Glinda Gomez, Pam Bowman, David Sargent, Jeff Braus, Johnny Dubose, Linda Nicks, BeBe Rocls. Dr. Wesley Palmer, Cheryl Royal, Lynn Bates**.\*\*\*\***Oct. 18: Mary Everett, Mary Kendrick, Penny Becker, Dina Defrates, Emily Hughes, Frank Fraccastoro, Griffin Lemley and Will Winfree**.\*\*\*\***Oct. 19: Judge Joy Dubose Simonton, Julie Prosperie, Phillip Todora, Kristin Bertles, Blake Hunt, Kyle Johnston**.\*\*\*\***Oct. 20: Mary Nixon, Beth Baas, Ashley Sanchez, Jason Yeaman Kim Ezell**.\*\*\*\***Oct. 21: Brad Childs, Jennie Hutchison, George Fleming, Tammy Ballard, Marilyn Ponthieu, Treva Hodge, Anita Green, Cory Moreau**.\*\*\*\***Oct. 23: Kyle Murrell, Roy Farias, Becky Carter, Bob Frank, Brian Prevost Bryan Chauvin, Eldon Pendergast**.\*\*\*\*Other birthdays **Janice Johnson** marked her 75th birthday with a big party and lots of family fun. Others with birthdays the past week included **Michelle Tubbleville, Henry Seals, Maddie Lobb, Rustyn Ackerman, Phyllis Sumrall-Smith, Terri Hoyland, Ran Hulsey, Johns Naworth, Robert Griffin, Mary Henson, Presley Caillavet, Carol Lettette, Sam Patronella, Amanda Hodge, Homer Pillsbury, Joe Miles, Chris Axelson, Kerry Kovatch Horton, Christi Thayer, Kathy Jones, David Rawls, Sheri Smith, Gloria Bishop, Jade Johnson, and Guy Priddy**.\*\*\*\*Anniversaries this past week included **Grant and Amberly Craft** at No. 14, **Greg and Hillary Gravett** with six years, and **Michael and Kait Patronella** with four years. (To publish birthdays or anniversary announcements free of charge please email [therecordlive.com](mailto:therecordlive.com) or call 409-886-7183.)

### CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

**Alsid Babineaux's** boy, **Pistache**, was not too bright him, was out of work for several months. His papa, **Alsid**, got some political pull him, wit da Louisiana governor, was from da Cajun country. **Alsid** talk to him bout a job for **Pistache**, so he called da **Louisiana Highway Department** and got **Pistache** a job.

Da supervisor told him his job was to paint lines down the center of rural roads. He added, "Pistache, you on probation you, and you got to stay at or above da average of two miles per day to keep you job."

**Pistache** agreed to da conditions and start da job da nex day.

**Supervisor Comeaux** checked and found dat **Pistache** completed four miles on da first day. "Dat's great, **Comeaux** said, dat boy will really work out him."

Da nex day, **Supervisor Comeaux** learned dat **Pistache**, him, only accomplished two miles. Da supervisor thought, "Well, he is still at da average and I don't want him to get discouraged."

Da turd day, however, **Pistache** only did one mile him. Da boss said to **Pistache**, "You were doing so great but yesterday you do only one mile, you, why's dat hunh?"

**Pistache** hang his head and he say, "Boss, I been work like hell me, but every day I keep getting farther and farther from dat damn paint bucket."

### GEN. MILLEY WARNED TRUMP IS 'FASCIST TO THE CORE'

**Gen. Mark A. Milley** warned that **Donald Trump** is "fascist to the core" and "the most dangerous person to this country" in new comments voicing his mounting alarm at the prospect of the **Republican nominee's election** to another term, according to a forthcoming book by Washington Post associate editor **Bob Woodward**. **Milley**, 66, served for more than a year as chairman of the **Joint Chiefs of Staff** under **Trump** before continuing in the role under **President Joe Biden**. Upon stepping down in September 2023 after more than 40 years in the military, **Milley** laid out his apparent concerns about **Trump** in a pointed retirement speech. "We don't take an oath to a king, or a queen, to a tyrant or dictator or wannabe dictator," he said. **Woodward's new book, "War,"** follows **Milley** in the years after the **Trump** administration as he wrestles with escalating fears over the president he once served. Sharing his worries about **Trump's mental stability** and national security decisions, according to excerpts of **Woodward's** new book. Upon seeing **Woodward** again at a reception in March 2023, he told the author that his concerns had grown **more dire**. "No one has ever been as dangerous to this country as **Donald Trump**," the general told **Woodward**. By the following year, **Milley** was receiving a "nonstop barrage of death threats" that he attributed to **Trump's political rhetoric** and his fixation on retribution for his perceived enemies. After retiring, **Milley** installed bulletproof glass and blast-proof curtains at his home. He also fears being recalled to uniform to be court-martialed. "for disloyalty," should **Trump** win against **Vice President Kamala Harris** in November. "He is a walking, talking advertisement of what he's going to try to do," **Milley** warned former colleagues. Numerous national security officials, retired military leaders and Republicans have announced their support for **Harris**, according to a tally by **The Post**. **Trump** is the oldest person to ever run for president. If elected, he would turn 80 after his first year in office. **He has refused to release his medical records**.\*\*\*\*I thank you for your time but mine is up. Please read us from cover to cover and shop our family of advertisers when you can. Take care and God bless.





Orangefield Class of 1974 held their 50 year reunion over the weekend with a dinner at Tequila's in Bridge City on Friday night. Some of them attended the football game afterwards. There was a lunch gathering Saturday at the high school. Top picture- Front row left to right, Barbara (LeBlanc) Sarver, Angela Langely, Sue Ann (Brown)Quinn, Ann (Cornell) Modica, Penny (Walles) LeLeux, Vickie (Steele) King, Donna (Stagner)MacCammond, Del Mires. Back row: Rusty Williams, John McClellan, Ray Nations, Rickey Shepherd, Sharon (Bunkley) Hogg, Paul Juneau. Not pictured: Becky (Duhon) Wolfe, Stephanie (Burns) Lamonte and Matt Duhon.

## Cantu returns home From Page 1

I ever had. That's why I have birthday parties now," said Cantu. "My house was egged. My mother was so upset that her house got egged, she called the police department. She called every parent of every boy that egged our house and they had to come clean our house. I never had another birthday party after that."

"I wanted to see where my humble beginnings started and this is it." She remarked that the quietness of the street on Friday was about the same as it was when she lived there.

Cantu said her brother sold the house about 20 years ago when her mother went into a rehab hospital. He threw everything out of the house including pictures, so Cantu has no photographs of her early life, except school pictures from annuals.

Stopping by the old abandoned high school on Western Avenue, "This is where I learned everything I needed to know. People still pick at me that I don't know where my periods and commas go."

Cantu admitted she wasn't a particularly good student. She didn't speak English when the family moved to West Orange from Refugio, where she was born. "I always had a hard time with 'sh' and 'ch,'" she said. "But hey, I made it to 75 without any problems."

"Good memories, fun memories, crazy memories and eh, some not so good memories, but we graduated." She said she received the citizenship award. "I didn't get one for the smartest or most talented but look at me today."

She has always shown that drive and determination can overcome shortcomings to get you where you want to be.

The Strand theater, where Cantu got her bug to be an actress, no longer stands, so instead she visited Dairy Queen on Strick-

land, which is next to the open field where MacArthur Drive-In used to stand. She talked about her days at the Strand theater.

She started working at the theater at 14, for 75 cents an hour. "It took me three months to save up \$100," she said. Cantu revealed that she bought contacts with that first \$100.

"I was in charge of the popcorn, the cokes and you know, putting too much salt, too much oil or whatever. Flashing the light on people when they were kissing," she shook her finger, "Um uh, not in my theater." She said, "I became like the manager."

"I got to see all the movies and the trailers. I loved seeing everybody dress up and go to the parties," she said. "I wanted to go to Hollywood because I thought it was about going to parties, so here I am. Parties, that is my forte."

Saturday, she attended the West Orange Chiefs reunion that was held at Niblett's Bluff Park in Vinton, La. The community center was full of former classmates.

They reminisced, remembered and discussed days gone by. Cantu thanked David Kittrell for being her protector when she was younger. He said he should have asked her to prom, because neither of them had prom dates.

Individual class group photos were captured and Cantu even posed on the floor in front of a teepee.

She returned to Hollywood Sunday with gratitude for having shared the time with friends and family, but not before she shared a farewell video.

"I'm on my way back to California, but I wanted to say it was wonderful spending time with all of y'all. Everyone looks phenomenal, we are all aging really great! I just had the best time seeing everyone. I love you all. Have a blessed, blessed life and I hope to see you soon."

**"I'm on my way back to California, but I want to say it was wonderful spending time with all of y'all."**

## Deaths & Memorials

### James Harold Bull, Jr., 77, Orange

James Harold Bull, Jr., 77, of Orange, Texas, passed away on Oct. 11, 2024, at St. Elizabeth Hospital in Beaumont.

Memorial services will be held on Friday, Oct. 18, 2024, at North Orange Baptist Church in Orange. Visitation will begin at 10 a.m. followed by a Memorial Service at 11:00 a.m. Officiating will be Pastor Rusty Dollar of North Orange Baptist Church.

Born in Orange, Texas, on July 1, 1947, he was the son of James Harold Bull, Sr. and Jimmy Jacqueline Bull. Harold was a proud graduate of Little Cypress High School (1965) and Lamar University, as well as veteran of the Texas National Guard.

He was a loving husband and father and loyal friend to those who knew him best. Harold loved fishing, golfing and spending time with family and friends. However, his greatest joy came just being "Papa" to his grandchildren. He loved attending their games and events and was always there with an encouraging word



James Harold Bull, Jr.

and unending support. He was a quiet, yet passionate, man who loved deeply. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Jim and Jimmy Bull; brother, Stephen Bull; nephew, Stephen "Bubba" Bull, Jr.

He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Ramona (Vincent) Bull; daughters, Misti (Bull) Brezina and husband Mike, and Kristi (Bull) Johanson and

husband Justin; grandchildren, Emily (Brezina) Sweeney and husband Brandon, Andrew Brezina, Blake Demler, Brandon Demler, and Luke Johanson; sister-in law, Debbie Bull; nephew, Jason Bull; niece, Jacyllynn (Bull) Wallace and husband Kevin; as well as many other loving family members and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider making a memorial contribution to North Orange Baptist Church at 4775 N 16th St, Orange, TX 77632 or American Diabetes Association at <https://donors.diabetes.org/>.

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### GARAGE SALE

**Garage Sale** this Fri., Oct. 18th and Sat., Oct., 19th from 9 am to 3 pm at 150 Canal Street in Bridge City. 2 Window units, queen mattress, Stereo Allegro Sound System by Zenith all works, Record Player 8 track radio new needle all works. Roland Original Piano Digital, vintage clothing, Vintage items for the home and much more.

**Garage Sale** this Fri., Oct. 18th & Sat. Oct. 19th, from 7am-1pm, at 4535 Nan Drive, Orange. Men and women clothes, yard equipment, tools, fishing, and Kitchen appliances.

**Garage Sale** on Fri., Oct. 18 & Sat., Oct., 19 from 8 to 12 at 1050 Vincent, Orange (off hwy 408) Clothes, Furniture, Jewelry, Shoes, Books Decor, Kitchen, Collectibles NO EARLY BIRDS

**Yard Sale** this Sat., Oct. 18th & Sun., Oct., 19th from 8:30-4:30, at 12777 IH 10 East & Lawrence Road (Herb Beers Insurance). Books, audio books, fishing poles, puzzles, small appliances, dishes, pots, too much to list.

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **FRANK M. BROWN**, Deceased, were issued on **October 14, 2024, in Cause No. P20081**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **BRANDON CASH CURTIS**.

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:  
Brandon Cash Curtis  
2117 Ridgmar Boulevard  
Fort Worth, Texas 76116

Dated the 14th day of October, 2024.

*Tommy Gunn*  
Tommy Gunn

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

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **CARY ROBERT KINDER**, Deceased, were issued on **October 14, 2024, in Cause No. P19992**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **RUBY ANN SELVARATNAM**.

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:  
Ruby Ann Selvaratnam  
9859 Siegen Lane  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana

Dated the 14th day of October, 2024.

*Tommy Gunn*  
Tommy Gunn

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

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **GRANVILLE LOUIS BLAND**, Deceased, were issued on **September 11th, 2024, in Cause No. P20060**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **ELLA MAE BLAND**.

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:  
Ella Mae Bland  
7101 Sand Bar Road  
Orange, Texas 77630

Dated the 10th day of October, 2024.

*Tommy Gunn*  
Tommy Gunn

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

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### NOTICE OF APPLICATION OF ENTERGY TEXAS, INC. FOR AUTHORITY TO RECONCILE FUEL AND PURCHASED POWER COSTS

On September 30, 2024, Entergy Texas, Inc. ("Entergy Texas") filed an Application with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission") to reconcile its eligible fuel and purchased power costs incurred during the period of April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2024 ("Reconciliation Period"). This filing was made pursuant to Section 36.203 of the Texas Utilities Code and 16 Texas Administrative Code § 25.236. The Commission has assigned Docket No. 57134 to the Application.

In its Application, Entergy Texas seeks to reconcile approximately \$1.61 billion of fuel and purchased power expenses incurred during the Reconciliation Period to generate and purchase electric energy for its retail customers. In this reconciliation proceeding ETI seeks Commission review of Entergy Texas' eligible fuel and purchased power expenses incurred during the Reconciliation Period and a determination they were reasonable and necessary to serve retail customers.

Entergy Texas's under-recovery balance for the Reconciliation Period totals approximately \$30.0 million, which includes interest expense on the under-recovered amounts. Entergy Texas does not seek to implement a fuel-related refund or surcharge of its eligible fuel costs in this case. Entergy Texas proposes to roll any ending fuel balance resulting from this proceeding forward to serve as the beginning balance for the next reconciliation period.

All customers and classes of customers receiving retail electric service from Entergy Texas whose electric service rates include charges pursuant to Rate Schedule FF (fixed fuel factor) will be affected by the Application. This Application has no effect on Entergy Texas' non-fuel rates.

Persons with questions or who want more information on this petition may contact Entergy Texas at Attn: Customer Service—Fuel Reconciliation, 350 Pine Street, Beaumont, Texas 77701, or call 1-866-981-2602 during normal business hours. A complete copy of this petition is available for inspection at the address listed above or by email at [tc@entergy.com](mailto:tc@entergy.com).

Persons who wish to formally participate in this proceeding, or who wish to express their comments concerning this petition should contact the Public Utility Commission of Texas, Office of Customer Protection, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326, or call (512) 936-7120 or toll-free at (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones ("TTY") may call (512) 936-7136 or use Relay Texas (toll-free) 1-800-735-2989.

A deadline for intervention will be established for this proceeding. All communications should refer to Docket No. 57134.

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Orange County Football: Highlights & Standings

# Four OC teams have shot at title

**TOMMY MANN JR.**  
For The Record

Only four weeks remain in the regular season for our high school football teams and all have the opportunity to secure playoff spots, and four of those teams have a shot at the district title. Here is what happened this past Friday night.

## Bobcats defeat Trojans

The Orangefield Bobcats trailed at the half, but the defense stiffened in the second-half and helped Orangefield grab a hard-fought 28-26 win over Coldspring-Oakhurst.

Bobcats quarterback Carson Gonzalez threw a 16-yard touchdown pass to receiver Zach Morrow on the first series for a quick 7-0 lead, which was followed by running back Mason Manning's first rushing touchdown early in the second quarter to extend the Bobcats lead, 14-6.

Orangefield and Coldspring traded scores in the quarter. After the Trojans took the lead, 20-14, on a 55-yard touchdown pass, the Bobcats answered with a nice drive and 20-yard Gonzalez run for a score.

Coldspring would score before halftime to lead 26-21 at the break.

The Bobcats defense stiffened in the second-half and kept the Trojans from scoring another touchdown, while also forcing three takeaways and two turn-overs-on-downs.

Manning scored on a 15-yard touchdown run in the third quarter, which proved to be enough for the victory.

Orangefield (5-2, 3-0) currently sits in first place in District 10-3A Division 1 with three games to play.

The Bobcats will travel to Kir-



Orangefield quarterback Carson Gonzalez (0) looks downfield and prepares to throw as Coldspring defender Cadyn Barton (9) closes in. Gonzalez pass for 108 yards and one touchdown.

RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.

byville this Friday to face the Wildcats (3-3, 0-2).

## Mustangs come from behind or the win

The West Orange-Stark Mustangs trailed the Jasper Bulldogs for the majority of the game, but the Mustangs pulled out the last second victory to defeat Jasper, 39-36, for its first district win in District 9-4A Division 2.

The Mustangs and Bulldogs traded scores in the first quarter, but it was Jasper in the lead 21-13 at the end of the quarter and 29-19 at halftime.

It looked as if Jasper would runaway with the game as the Bulldogs scored a 62-yard touchdown run to start the third quarter for a 36-19 lead, but that is when WO-S decided to take control and responded on its next drive with a 10-yard touchdown pass by Marcus Turner Jr. Jasper had a touchdown called back for a holding penalty late in the third quarter and failed to

capitalize but still leading 36-25 at the end three quarters.

The Mustangs added a 10-yard touchdown run early in the fourth quarter to make it 36-31 Jasper, and looked to take the lead a short time later but the throw by Turner was intercepted in the end zone.

The Mustangs defense forced Jasper to punt on the ensuing drive, but the ball went over the punter's head and WO-S recovered at the Bulldogs 24-yard line. A short time later Turner found a receiver in the corner of the end zone for the touchdown

and a 39-36 lead over Jasper following the two point conversion with only 1:17 left in the game. The Mustangs intercepted the Jasper quarterback at the WO-S 5-yard line for the win.

WO-S (5-1, 1-0) returns home to Dan R. Hooks Stadium in West Orange next Friday to take on the Shepherd Pirates (3-3, 1-0).

## Bears tame Lions

The Little Cypress-Mauriceville Battlin' Bears used a big surge in the second-half to take care of the Livingston Lions, 35-16, this past Friday night in Livingston.

The Lions found the scoreboard first on a 2-yard touchdown run and an 8-0 advantage following the two point conversion. The Bears answered a short time later as quarterback Braylen Lewis scored on a 5-yard run and were trailing 8-7 at the end of the first quarter.

Lewis added a 4-yard touchdown run in the second quarter to put the Bears ahead, 14-8. Livingston's game plan was to use as much play clock as possible and keep the LC-M offense off the field, and it seemed to work in the first-half. The Lions would retake the lead on an 11-yard touchdown pass and would go into halftime leading the Bears, 16-14, following another successful two point conversion.

The Bears took control in the second-half and never looked back. In the third quarter, Evan Worster scored on a 1-yard touchdown run and Jonah Fuller added an 18-yard scamper for a score. Fuller would add another touchdown in the fourth quarter, this a 2-yard run, to give LC-M the 35-16 victory.

LC-M (4-2, 3-0) travels to Liberty (1-5, 1-2) this Friday to take

ORANGE COUNTY Page 3B

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**OUTDOORS**  
**Capt. Chuck Uzzle**  
**For The Record**



**Chuck Uzzle**

All along the Texas gulf coast the pattern is the same, cool fronts signal the much anticipated frenzy that is fall fishing.

Anglers of every description ready themselves with the latest technology and gear in hopes of finding flocks of gulls working over schools of hungry speckled trout and redfish. Shiny fiberglass cruisers masquerading as bay boats are stocked up with an array of tackle that would make most anglers drool with envy.

It is the same scenario in each bay system any and every place you look, yes all those hot summer days with limited action will soon be past memories because the action is rather than the weather is heating up.

It is incredibly easy to get caught up in the chaos that is fall fishing, running and gunning from one school of fish to another as if they will suddenly disappear if you do not reach them in time. I must admit that I am absolutely in love with this style of fishing, probably due to the fact that I take a “fly by the seat of your pants” approach to most things so this is right up my alley. While it is true that I have had some wonderful times fishing like this, I have had even better times sharing it with kids.

This time of the year is tailor made for taking a child fishing, weather and overall conditions could not be better for introducing a young angler to the world of fishing. Now some folks hear the stories about chasing the birds in the lake and that sounds great, except maybe they do not have a big boat that allows them to do this kind of fishing. There are very few places better to fish right now than the Sabine and Neches rivers along with the intracoastal canal.

Various locations along the deep channels can provide hours worth of fish catching opportunities for folks to take their kids and experience some tremendous fishing without having to worry about the wind and also not having to run too far.

On most occasions during the fall months you can take a kid out and anchor up along the river channel or at the mouth of most bayous and have no problem getting bit. Small redfish are wandering all over the river banks and hungry trout will readily eat shad or shrimp fished on the bottom. Try plenty of spots until you find a concentration of fish, then anchor and enjoy.

This style of fishing coupled with the numbers of fish in our area during the fall months are just perfect for introducing a young angler to the sport of fishing, who knows you just may get a lifetime fishing buddy out of the deal.

**‘The Lakes’ Fishing**

**• Toledo Bend Fishing Report**

**FAIR.** Water normal stain; 85 degrees; 4.20 feet below pool. Topwater action is improving in the morning for the first hour at daylight along the edge of grass. Once the sun rises, work a wacky worm and light Texas rig along deep edges of grass and in creek bends in 8-12 feet. Bass are fair in the main lake at 14-20 feet, but most are still small to just keepers, these fish coming on big crankbaits and Carolina rigs. As water continues to cool, the action will improve. Crappie are still slow. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

**• Sam Rayburn Fishing Reports**

**GOOD.** Water slightly stained; 80 degrees; 1.24 feet below pool. Fishing is consistent. Bass are schooling more in the morning so expect more topwater action on grass edges and points. Crappie are fair on standing timber in 27 feet on brush piles with minnows over jigs. Blue and channel catfish are fair in 24-27 feet of water and in the river bends on cut bait and minnows. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service.

There is a large population of schooling bass heavily chasing bait balls around main lake ledges in 17-22 feet, main lake drains in 10-17 feet, and main lake and secondary points. Cast a dropshot, Carolina rig, ½-¾ ounce jig, or deep diving crankbait. Report by Hank Harrison, Double H Precision Guide Service.

**Gulf Coast Fishing Reports**

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

**• Sabine Lake**

**GOOD.** 85 degrees. The weather and forecasted weather has kept fishing efforts in the Sabine Channel. Limits of speckled trout and redfish can be caught working the bank with live shrimp under a popping cork on rock piles and shell flats. There is an influx of white trout from the gulf up to 14-15 inches.

ICW rock piles and shell flats are good for redfish and trout. Flounder are good in the Intracoastal Canals Bayous and Texaco Island shell flats and rock piles with ½-¾ ounce jigs 3.5 inches plastics baits bulkheads points and drops. Redfish are really good on the rock piles. The water has been high, but as the drops expect increased bird action feeding on the shrimp coming out of the marshes, and as always where there is bait there will be game fish.

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

**• Bolivar**

**EXCELLENT.** 80 degrees. Expect another week of excellent fishing due to the cool mornings. Most of the fishing action is during Incoming tides at the jetty producing limits of slot-sized trout, bull redfish, and black drum. Flounder are starting to move in for the fall with 20 inch plus flatties being caught especially on days with calm winds.

The surf is producing limits of speckled trout, bull redfish and black drum as well with more success in the early mornings and evenings. The big stingrays and bigger sharks are still running along the whole peninsula with a majority caught by Gilchrist and the Bolivar flats. People are using all kinds of different bait with awesome results. Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

**• Trinity Bay**

**SLOW.** 82 degrees. Small bays north of the Fred Hartman bridge holding a few speckled trout, but decent numbers of reds, along with a few black drum. Scattered catches of flounder, redfish, and trout taken by those wading the east shoreline. Open water fishing will be on hold until the wind subsides. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

Trout are back on the flats in 4-6 feet of water biting live shrimp and artificial shrimp under a popping cork. Redfish are tight to the shoreline with structure eating shrimp wedged under scattered rocks in the shallows eating live shrimp and artificial shrimp under a popping cork. Drum and sheepshead are on rock groins by the ship channel eating live shrimp. Flounder are showing up decently eating live and artificial shrimp right to structure. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

**• East Galveston Bay**

**GOOD.** 83 degrees. Surface water temperature 82 degrees. The water clarity is about average for East Galveston Bay, with clearer water as you get west of Elm Grove. This week we

have started out our mornings with northeast winds increasing and changing to east to southeast by day end. We have focused on grass shorelines with good current and nervous shrimp present, finding trout, redfish, and a few flounders. If you like fishing under the birds they are pretty much all over the Bay, and some have better trout mixed in every so often. If you see reefs with birds sitting on the water, the fish are close

by. The crowds have thinned, and fishing should continue to heat up after this next front comes thru helping to drop surface temps, so get your friends and family and get out on the water. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Service, LLC.

**• Galveston Bay**

**SLOW.** 81 degrees. It has been too rough to fish in the open bay. Those work-

ing the protected shorelines and spoil islands picking up a few trout, but decent numbers of black drum and redfish, along with a few big sheepshead. Best on live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

**• West Galveston Bay**

**GOOD.** 84 degrees. Protected shorelines with shell and back lakes producing fair numbers of trout and redfish. Black drum and sheepsheads being caught over and near

FISHING Page 5B

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# Spooky lore: Unmasking the ‘chupacabra’

## Expert provides scientific explanation for the paranormal creature

**Sarah Fuller**  
Texas A&M AgriLife

With its grey, scaly skin, protruding dorsal spines, menacing fangs and proclivity for small livestock, the mythical chupacabra has stoked both curiosity and fear across portions of the Americas for decades.

Despite its diverse origin stories, a wildlife expert with Texas A&M AgriLife Research said there is a simple explanation to chupacabra sightings — one far more entrenched in science than the supernatural.

If you consider the most common descriptions of the chupacabra, from its physical appearance to its behavior, you’re likely dealing with a coyote that is in the late stages of mange, said John Tomeček, Ph.D., associate professor in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Rangeland, Wildlife and Fisheries Management.

“Mange is a debilitating disease that can infect a wide range of fur-bearing mammals,” Tomeček said. “Depending on the animal’s ability to overcome the symptoms of mange, the condition can become chronic, leading to behavioral changes and even death.”

### Mange symptoms explain chupacabra’s appearance

In canines, mange is caused by two species of microscopic mites that burrow into the skin causing intense irritation, itching, lesions, fur loss, and scabbing and thickening of the skin.

A thin coyote with dark skin exposed by mange walks along a woodline.

Tomeček said mange also tends to follow a pattern of progression along the animal’s body.

“On canids, the last place they lose fur is right between the shoulder

blades in an area that we call the ruff,” he said. “This fits descriptions of chupacabras having spikes or a ridge along their backs.”

Further amplifying the ridge-like characteristics reported in chupacabra sightings are the emaciated conditions of mange-infested animals.

“Infected animals can become extremely gaunt, and it’s incredibly painful in the later stages,” Tomeček said. “At that point, the animal appears like an otherworldly beast — especially if you see it in the dusky hours of the morning or evening.”

Coyotes aren’t the only common wildlife species that can succumb to infection. Tomeček said he once observed the body of a smaller, cryptic animal that had died of mange.

“I honestly wasn’t sure what I was looking at,” he said. “I had to investigate its teeth and paws before determining it was a raccoon.”

### Changes in infected wildlife behavior

Aside from mange embodying the physical characteristics of the legendary chupacabra, the disease alters the typical behavioral patterns of the animal who is now weak and seeking easy access to resources.

“When you have a coyote that is in late-stage mange, they are bolder as far as approaching residential areas to find food because they are desperate,” Tomeček said. “They’re taking risks that an otherwise healthy animal wouldn’t take.”

According to the American Museum of Natural History, the legend of the chupacabra originated in Puerto Rico following reports of livestock deaths in which the animals had seemingly been drained of blood.

Translated from Spanish, the name chupacabra means “goat sucker.”



According to a Texas A&M AgriLife wildlife expert, reports of the mythical chupacabra are likely people seeing a coyote with late-stage mange.

In most cases, the small livestock killed during suspected chupacabra attacks are confined to cages or corrals, which Tomeček said is consistent with predation from a sick animal.

“Any predatory animal that is debilitated must seek out easier prey because wild prey are typically agile and wary,” he said.

The vampire-like punctures often reported on victims of the chupacabra also correspond with the coyote’s standard predation method of strangulation through multiple bites to their prey’s neck.

“Coyote’s mouths are not good at getting and maintaining a grip, so they have to re-bite,” Tomeček said. “In doing so, they may end up exsanguinating the animal because of puncture wounds to the jugular vein.”

He said reports of chupacabras fully draining an animal of blood may also be explained by how

rapidly blood will settle and coagulate within the dead animal, making it appear as though it has been drained.

### Wildlife boldness doesn’t equate to aggression

Although sick wildlife may become bolder in their search for food sources around human development, Tomeček emphasized this does not necessarily translate to aggression.

“I always make the distinction between an animal being bold and an animal being aggressive,” Tomeček said. “Being bold just means an animal is taking risks and doing things that they normally wouldn’t because they’re desperate.”

He said this is especially true in urban environments where homes and businesses produce an abundance of food waste that provides an easy

source of sustenance.

“Wildlife like coyotes, bobcats and raccoons are very well adapted to people, so urbanization is actually increasing the abundance of these animals,” Tomeček said. “They are far denser in urban areas than in rural areas; and, as a result, you have an increased opportunity for wildlife encounters.”

### What to do when encountering an animal with mange

Because mange is transmissible to humans and

domestic animals, Tomeček advises that you do not approach the wildlife and secure your pets. Individuals should also contact their county wildlife biologist with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Although individuals may have an initial reaction to humanely dispatch the sick animal, it is important to properly identify the animal as it could be someone’s domestic pet with a case of mange.

“There are no known preventative measures for mange, but if you live in a region where the disease is common, it would be wise to consider a regular bathing regime for your working and companion animals that includes some sort of acaricide treatment,” Tomeček said. “Of course, seek appropriate veterinary care when needed.”

Although it can be easy for the folklore and mystery of the chupacabra to overshadow the reality behind these strange sightings, Tomeček encourages Texans to not lose sight of the actual situation.

“When dealing with a ‘chupacabra,’ we are dealing with a real animal — typically a coyote — that’s experiencing a serious health problem,” he said. “Treat the situation accordingly so we can help steward our wildlife resources.”

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS FINANCIAL RATING

Little Cypress - Mauriceville C.I.S.D. will hold a public meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, October 21, 2024 at the LCM Administration Building, 6586 FM 1130, Orange, Texas to discuss the district’s rating on the state’s financial accountability system.

### Holiday in the Park booth spaces available

Booth registrations are now open to the public beginning for this year’s “Holiday in the Park” festival hosted by the City of West Orange.

The festival is scheduled for Saturday, November 2, 2024 from 9:00 a.m. until 5:00 in the park next door to West Orange City Hall (2700 Western Avenue; West Orange, Texas). The event will have food booths, craft booths, children’s activities and will feature local entertainment. Registration form can be found on the City’s website located at [www.cityofwestorange.com](http://www.cityofwestorange.com). For further information, or to reserve a booth space, contact West Orange City Hall at 409-883-3468.



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The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce is pleased to announce that the October Student of the Month for Orangefield is Jayde Baggett. She is ranked 3 of 114 with a GPA of 4.56. Pictured: Shaun McAlpin, Jennifer Lasseigne, Jayde Baggett, Richard Lasseigne, Landon Luna and Rea Wrinkle.



Sempra Infrastructure awarded Orangefield ISD \$13,556.00 to enhance STEM at the high school. We greatly appreciate Sempra's generosity.



Students in OHS Speech/Debate are working simultaneously on several different UIL events: Cross Examination Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Congressional Debate, Informative Extemporaneous Speaking, and Persuasive Extemporaneous Speaking.

Team members competing in Congressional Debate were: Adam Myers, Kamryn Aery, Arabella Lopez, Beck Harris, Kase White, Carter Munson-Appleby, Ayden Wagoner, and Cooper Dorman. Ayden Wagoner competed in Lincoln Douglas Debate as well.



Orangefield High School Principles of Health Science classes welcomed guest speakers from Christus St. Elizabeth Hospital- Beaumont to talk about their careers in the Health Informatics Pathway. Christa Breaux, ADN, RN, Quality Management Coordinator, and Alison Guidry, BSN, RN, Risk Manager, discussed their roles and responsibilities in these areas and the qualities and characteristics needed to be successful in their field.

## Orange County football From Page 1B

on the Panthers in another important District 10-4A Division 1 matchup.

### Cardinals stop H-J

Bridge City had to scrap

for every point this past Friday night and it came down to a defensive stand to secure a 28-24 victory over the Hardin-Jefferson Hawks in Sour Lake.

The Cardinals were clinging to a 13-12 lead at halftime and were leading 28-24 late in the fourth

quarter, but the Hawks were moving the ball steadily down the field late and looking to take the lead and the win. However, the Cardinals defense stood tall and forced a turnover in the red zone to preserve the victory.

Cardinals running back

Ashton Sumrall continues to be a force against opposing defense as he rushed for more than 160 yards and two touchdowns against the Hawks.

Bridge City (6-0, 3-0) returns home to Larry Ward Stadium this Friday and will host the Livingston Lions (0-6, 0-3) for homecoming. Bridge City, LC-M and Huffman-Hargrave are


currently all tied for first place in District 10-4A Division 1.

### Falcons fly by Pirates

For the second consecutive week, the Vidor Pirates offense was plagued by multiple fumbles and, for


the second consecutive week, the Pirates were pummeled by a district opponent.

The Huffman-Hargrave (6-0, 3-0) Falcons crushed the Pirates, 65-38, this past Friday night at Pirates Stadium in Vidor. Trailing 31-16 at halftime, the Pirates made the switch from Jett Brucia to previous starter Daigan Venable.




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## More Orange County Football Highlights.....



Orangefield running back Mason Manning (2) tries to avoid a Trojan defender and get a first down to seal the victory for the Bobcats late in the fourth quarter this past Friday.  
RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.



Bobcats running back Mason Manning (2) is tackled as he crosses the goal line for a touchdown in the game against Coldspring. Manning rushed for 255 yards on 34 carries and two touchdowns for the game.  
RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.



Bobcats running back Jose Lecea looks for a running lane during the first quarter of Friday's game against the Coldspring-Oakhurst Trojans.  
RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.



The Bobcats defense rose to the challenge in the second-half and kept the Trojans off the scoreboard and forced three turnovers to help power Orangefield to a 28-26 victory.  
RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.

## Week 8 Schedule

Livingston at Bridge City  
Shepherd at WO-S  
LC-M at Liberty  
Orangefield at Kirbyville  
Vidor at Lumberton  
Deweyville at Evadale

Kountze 43 Warren 6  
Newton 34 Woodville 15  
Anderson-Shiro 43 New Waverly 0  
Timpson 35 Hemphill 22  
Sabine Pass 33 Evadale 28  
West Sabine 47 Colmesneil 6

Ft Bend Christian 21 Bmt Kelly 14  
West Brook 26 Baytown Sterling 9  
Galveston Ball 28 Bmt United 7  
PN-G 57 Splendora 14  
Nederland 45 West Fork 28  
PA Memorial 20 Barbers Hill 17

## Week 7 Results

WO-S 39 Jasper 36  
Bridge City 28 Hardin-Jefferson 24  
Orangefield 28 Coldspring 26  
LC-M 35 Livingston 16  
Huffman-Hargrave 65 Vidor 38  
Deweyville 48 Hull-Daisetta 0  
Lumberton 14 Liberty 6  
Hamshire-Fannett 35 Silsbee 14  
Shepherd 50 Tarkington 32  
Hardin 26 Buna 0  
Anahuac 53 East Chambers 48

## Fishing Reports

From Page 2B

hard structure. Best bite on live shrimp. Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

### • Freeport

GOOD. 85 degrees. Christmas Bay, Chocolate Bay, Bastrop Bay, and the upper West Galveston Bay have been good drifting shrimp under a popping cork for trout, redfish and drum. San Luis Pass and The Brazos River are good early in the morning for trout and redfish throwing topwaters, plastics, or free lining mullet or live shrimp. The Freeport Harbor is good for catches of redfish, sheepshead mangrove snapper and some trout using live shrimp or mullet free lining along the rocks. Report by Captain Jake Brown, Flattie Daddy Fishing Adventures

### • Texas City

GOOD. 82 degrees. Anglers fishing off the dike picking up a few flounder, bull redfish, and black drum. Galveston jetties

are producing decent numbers of slot and oversized redfish. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Great fishing conditions should be better when the tides start to normalize this week with the cool weather. Anglers are catching plenty of speckled trout, redfish, and a few big flounder with some occasional black drum, sheepshead, sand trout, and gafftop. Live shrimp and finger mullet have been the best baits. Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

### • Matagorda Bay East & West

GOOD. 90 degrees. Fronts will cool the water bringing the shrimp out of the marsh attracting more game fish. North and northeast winds slowed the bite for redfish. Scattered catches of redfish drifting with vudu shrimp. Trout are good wading with croaker. Abundance of drum can be targeted on shell reefs.

### Notice of Rate Change Request

On October 7, 2024, Entergy Texas, Inc. ("ETI") filed an application for a Transmission Cost Recovery Factor ("TCRF") with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission" or "PUC"). The application was assigned PUC Docket No. 57162. The proposed TCRF is requested in accordance with the Public Utility Regulatory Act § 36.209 and 16 TAC § 25.239. A TCRF allows a utility to recover its reasonable and necessary costs that have occurred since the end of the test year in the utility's last base rate case for transmission infrastructure improvement and changes in wholesale transmission charges to the electric utility under a tariff approved by a federal regulatory authority. In its requested amendment, ETI is seeking recovery of costs for transmission capital investments it incurred from January 1, 2022 through June 30, 2024. ETI also seeks to recover approved transmission charges that are not otherwise being recovered through rates.

The proposed TCRF as amended would result in total TCRF retail revenues of approximately \$9.7 million on an annual basis, which would be a 0.79% increase in ETI's annualized non-fuel revenue requirement as compared to revenues approved in Docket No. 53719, ETI's most recent base rate case, and a 0.50% increase in ETI's overall annualized revenue requirement including fuel costs as compared to such revenues. The impact of the rate change on various customer classes will vary from the overall impact described in this notice.

The effective date of the proposed rate change would be the date that a Commission order adopting the proposed TCRF is issued. ETI has requested that, if no hearing is requested, the Commission adopt an order approving the proposed TCRF at or before its currently scheduled open meeting on December 19, 2024. All customers in ETI's Texas retail rate classes are affected by this request.

Persons with questions or who want more information on this filing may contact ETI at Entergy Texas, Inc., Attn: Customer Service—2024 TCRF Case, 350 Pine Street, Beaumont, Texas 77701, email [ter@entergy.com](mailto:ter@entergy.com), or call 1-866-981-2602 during normal business hours. A complete copy of this application is available for inspection at the address listed above.

The Commission has assigned Docket No. 57162 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas (commission) as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136.

The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the application was filed with the commission. Therefore, ETI has requested that the deadline be November 21, 2024 and a letter requesting intervention should be received by the Commission by that date. Instructions for electronic filing via the "PUC Filer" on the Commission's website can be found here: <https://interchange.puc.texas.gov/filer>. Instructions for using the PUC Filer are available at: [https://ftp.puc.texas.gov/public/puct-info/industry/filings/E-Filing\\_Instructions.pdf](https://ftp.puc.texas.gov/public/puct-info/industry/filings/E-Filing_Instructions.pdf).

Once you obtain a tracking sheet associated with your filing from the PUC Filer, you may email the tracking sheet and the document you wish to file to: [centerrecords@puc.texas.gov](mailto:centerrecords@puc.texas.gov). For assistance with your electronic filing, please contact the Commission's Help Desk at (512) 936-7100 or [helpdesk@puc.texas.gov](mailto:helpdesk@puc.texas.gov). You can review materials filed in this docket on the PUC Interchange at: <http://interchange.puc.texas.gov/>.

# Lessons in Words and Ways

**SAM CRABTREE  
PASTOR  
DESIRINGGOD.ORG**

Children absorb. They learn their way around the world not only from what others explicitly teach them, but also from the kind of culture or atmosphere in which they live — especially in their home. The old adage “more is caught than taught” applies. By God’s design, children soak up values without even knowing it.

For example, children don’t pick up their mother tongue because someone stands in front of them with a pronunciation flip chart. They pick up their mother tongue simply from hearing it day after day. They breathe it in without conscious awareness. And as with language, so with values. Children are constantly absorbing. Therefore, what happens within the walls of your home will have a disproportionate impact on who they become.

So, how can Christian parents create a Christlike culture in which their children can swim?

love and how you love it, what you hate and how you hate it. Family culture includes the major events in life, and it includes the seemingly little things that go almost unnoticed, like what you mutter at the stoplight.

No family can fake a Christian culture — at least, not for long. If parents aren’t wowed by God’s character, attributes, and wonderful deeds, their indifference won’t kindle awe in the hearts of the children. Indifference is reproducible. If the heavens aren’t declaring God’s glory to me (Psalm 19:1), I’m not likely to help my children see the glory the heavens are declaring to them.

Genuine enthusiasm for God’s glory is not empty hype. Children are wired with keen hypocrisy antennae. Flesh can masquerade as Spirit only for so long before they notice the cosmetics wearing off. So, when it comes to establishing a Christian culture, the first step is to be thoroughly entranced by the superiority of Jesus yourself. Jesus is not a pointer, but the point.

### Detecting Indifference

A family’s culture is not established in five minutes. Family culture is the sum total of the parents’ relationship with God, with each other, with the children, and with the world. No aspect of life is irrelevant to this enterprise, right down to what you say and how you say it, what you do and how you do it, what you

### Awe Begets Awe

Beware of trying to argue anyone — including your children — into seeing the surpassing beauty of Christ. Though arguments may be necessary in establishing a culture, they are not sufficient. You can’t argue a blind man into seeing the multicolored clouds of the sunset. Therefore, allow children to witness your unsolicited and uncon-



trived worship — both in planned moments, like worship services, and in unplanned moments of ordinary life. Give them no doubt that family devotions and church services aren’t the only time you personally ponder the Bible and commune with God.

Has Jesus gripped you? Are you deeply impressed with Jesus? When you read Colossians 1:16–18, does awe arise?

By him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be pre-eminent.

The Christian culture we want to foster is more a

matter of devotion than devotions. There is a great difference between explaining the importance of something and modeling its importance in your own lives.

### Creating a Christlike Culture

I don’t know of anyone who has discovered a fool-proof checklist for producing Christian kids. Checklists don’t change hearts. But transformed hearts can make good use of checklists as a sort of self-diagnostic or reminder. As you seek to foster a Christian culture in your home, the following suggestions can serve like mirrors to help you see how you’re doing. We’ll consider these suggestions in two groupings: ways and words.

### • WAYS

The God of means uses habits consistently practiced in a home to elevate and solidify values and

identity. “Our family functions this way.” Consider the following.

Model what you expect from your children: Christian courtesy, diligence, punctuality, and scores of Christlike character qualities that blossom in parents who are filled with the Holy Spirit. Avoid giving the impression that you never fail, but own your sins and mistakes.

Gently touch. Soft and playful touches can convey affection and acceptance, and if the children stiffen or pull away, that bristling may signal a relational wound that needs healing.

Get organized. Orderliness can serve everyone in the household, whereas a cluttered dwelling and cluttered calendar can beget chaos. Start by organizing your decisions, and then branch out from there. A well-placed shelf, or some coat hooks, or a reminder list on the fridge can help strengthen teamwork in the family.

At the same time, do not fear your child. You are the parent. It can be a fearful experience for a child to discover that his parents have left him in charge of the world. Expect that if you use your God-given parental authority, you will sooner or later offend your children’s grasp at self-rule. Understand the difference between offending them (an inevitable result of godly discipline) and wounding them (an excessive or ill-timed use of discipline). Love God more than your family in order to love your family well.

### • WORDS

What we say is of course

important, and how we say it may be even more important. Tone of voice and facial expression can be life-giving or deadly.

When it comes to speaking around children, then, monitor your tone. Do you sound edgy, cranky, whiny — or cheerful, grateful, honoring? Out of the mouths of babes come things parents shouldn’t have said. Tone is so important to household culture. Don’t reward whining, or you will get lots more of it. Beware of practicing sarcasm, for it can toxify a home and the children within it.

Say thank you a lot; say thank you to them as well as to others and to God. Keep promises and don’t break them — to your children or to your spouse.

Pray. It is an unspeakable service to your children to pray for them and with them. Talk to Jesus about them before you talk to them about Jesus, and do both regularly.

Sing. Singing has a wonderful effect on the tone of a home, not to mention the long-term benefits of memorizing godly lyrics.

You can sing serendipitously, while doing the dishes or driving, and you can gather round and launch together into a song that supports the kind of culture you’re trying to build.

Could we sum it all up — words and ways — in a vision for a Christlike family culture? In all your practices and speech, live so that someday, when your children are asked if they ever knew a true Christian, they would immediately think of you.



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