

Penny Record

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Week of Wednesday, September 25, 2024

New plant spent \$340 million

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Chevron-Phillips has spent so far nearly \$340 million locally in conjunction with the construction of the Golden Triangle Polymers plant off Highway 87 South.

Heather Betancourth with Golden Triangle Polymers gave the information to Orange County Commissioners Court on Tuesday. The report covered the second quarter of 2024, or the months of April, May, and June.

The reports and requirements to spend money with local companies and hire local people was part of the conditions Commissioners Court put in the tax abatement agreement to build the new \$8.5 billion petrochemical plant here.

The GT Polymers and its main contractor companies during the second quarter this year spend \$1.14 million on small credit card purchases to a wide variety of local businesses in the county.

Many of the expenditures went to a number of locally-owned restaurants and donut stores, and bakeries.

Small expenditures also went to several local industrial vendors, rental companies, photographers, pest control, printers, office suppliers, grocery stores, car washes, auto supply shops, and even Lamar State College Orange.

Betancourth said 36 Orange County contractors have work at the plant and 132 local companies are registered to do business with Golden Triangle Polymers.

Local employment hires since the stats began in 2023 show 1,422 people have been hired, with 119 of those getting jobs directly with Golden Triangle Polymers. The other local hires have been made by contractors.

The county is continuing the Local First program it set up to assure that the international corporation building the plant would spend money

locally.

"This program has worked the way I hoped it would work," said Precinct 1 Commissioner Johnny Trahan.

In other business during the Commissioners Court meeting, Dr. Gwendolyn Lavalais, medical director of the Julie Rogers Gift of Life program, talked

about October being Breast and Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. The Gift of Life provides free mammograms and other screenings to wom-

en with no private or government insurance to cover the costs. Commissioners Court gave the

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Valenta Mathews-Hunter shows off some of the work students do to enhance their reading comprehension skills during Sunday school classes at Salem United Methodist Church in Orange. RECORD PHOTOS: Penny LeLeux

BC council working to find new manager

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The Bridge City City Council is working with a consulting firm once again to help in the search for a new city manager to become the city's third manager in two years.

The council was set to meet Tuesday evening and then go into a closed-door executive session to discuss the position, criteria for the selection, and candidates.

Slavin Management Consultants based in Georgia is helping with the search with job applicants applying online or by letter through the company, which then works with the council.

Slavin Management also helped the council with hiring of Christopher Baker, who started work as

Bridge City city manager in January. Baker resigned in August after meeting with the council in a closed-door meeting to review his performance after only seven months on the job.

The city manager before Baker had held the position for one year and six days.

The city had been fortunate before then to have Jerry Jones serve in the position for more than 15 years. Jones had previously been the city's public works director.

Mayor David Rutledge is serving as interim city manager until a new person takes over. Other council members are Terri Gauthier, Aaron Roccaforte, Patty Collins, Sherby Dixon, Bryant Champagne, and Gina Mannino.

All In God's Timing

PENNYLELEUX
For The Record

A project has finally come to fruition that has been in the making for over three years at Salem United Methodist Church in Orange. It began with Salem's previous pastor, Develous Bright and the education director Valenta "Vinnie" Mathews-Hunter. Mathews-Hunter has overseen Salem's Vacation Bible School program over 25 years. Pastor Bright had been in love with flying since he was a kid. He wanted to have a VBS program based on flying. Through research he stumbled upon "CodeMonkey," a program that teaches computer coding and programming for drones and robots. It wasn't exactly what they were looking for in the VBS program but felt it would be a great learning tool for the youngsters.

Valenta-Mathews said it really wasn't that much at the time, but the church was still doing major repairs from damage by Hurricane Laura in 2020. The repair bill was over \$200,000. The church went ahead and purchased six Chromebooks in future preparation of the program.

They were still on the hunt for a VBS program concerning flight. Mathews-Hunter was looking everywhere on the internet and



The Rev. Emanuel D. Echols (left) poses with Valenta Mathews-Hunter as they display a banner for their new "CodeMonkey" computer program that will teach students 5-15 how to code through game play.

RECORD PHOTO: Penny LeLeux

wasn't having any luck, when she got a message from a friend, Shanna Fuller from Silsbee, "Read your email!"

Fuller had not only found a flight school based VBS program, but she also paid for it. The program was \$300-400 and the church didn't have the money, due to the repair bill.

"It's ours forever and ever, now" said Mathews-Hunter. Bright even secured a flight simulator and programed it where the kids could

fly over their house.

"Children earned the right to get in the simulator if they cooperated with every teacher," said Mathews-Hunter. "It was an incentive and so when they had done well, they would get on the simulator. Some of them were really really good at it."

"It feels like the real deal. I flew over the Rainbow Bridge," said

In God's Time Page 3A

Meals on Wheels thriving again with new director

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Orange County's Meals on Wheels program, which suffered what the citizens' board described as a "crisis" in late April, is now thriving again with a new director and income.

Kristen Ross, a native of Orange with experience in public healthcare, is the new director. Also, Golden Triangle Polymers donated \$15,000, plus a fundraiser for the group sold \$1,657 barbecue sandwich lunches.

Meals on Wheels in Or-

ange County delivers hot, balanced meals five days a week to senior and disabled citizens who are shut-ins. In late April, the program ran out of money and about 300 people went without meals.

The citizen board of directors dismissed the executive director of the program and started delivering frozen meals for a short time until the program could recover.

Ross has now been hired to oversee the program, which delivers meals to about 300 people, along with serving meals daily



Kristen Ross

to about 100 low-income seniors who go the the Es-sie Bellfield Community Center in Orange to eat a hot lunch. The seniors not

only enjoy a meal with company, they are able to play games, do crafts and socialize.

All the meals are cooked in a commercial kitchen at the community center, which serves as the hub for the Meals on Wheels meal distribution.

Ross is a native of Orange and graduated from West Orange-Stark High School. She earned a bachelor's degree in healthcare administration from Texas Southern University and then a master's degree in business administration from Texas Woman's

University. She has more than 10 years of experience working with the Houston Health Department.

"Kristen has a heart to serve and is passionate about creating a lasting impact, developing sustainable programs, and ensuring that resources reach those who need them most. Kristen is excited to lead the Orange Community Action Association- Meals on Wheels in restoring its community impact, building on the organization's past success and leading it into its

next chapter," said Brittan-y Chandler, a board member of the program. "Meals on Wheels looks forward to seeing its seniors back in our centers for congregate meals, and enjoying other program activities as they unfold."

Last week, a couple of dozen volunteers showed up to help with a barbecue sandwich fundraiser for the group, with LBS Barbecue and Catering cooking the beef brisket and pulled pork for sandwiches. A total of 1,657 sand-

Meals on Page 3A

Deaths & Memorials

Zilda Sue Darby Bland, 75, BC

Zilda Sue Darby Bland, 82, of Bridge City, Texas, passed away on September 19, 2024, in Beaumont.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Saturday, September 28, 2024, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Officiating will be Brother Terry Wright. Burial will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Orange.

Visitation will be from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday, September 28, 2024, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Born in Port Arthur, Texas, on February 11, 1942, she was the daughter of John Clement Darby and Imogene Glaze Darby. A cherished member of her community, Zilda leaves behind a legacy of warmth, laughter, and dedication. Zilda worked as a secretary at Dixie Glass and Alamo Glass, where she was recognized for her exceptional work ethic by receiving the Bridge City Chamber's Employee of the Year award. She also consistently claimed the title for the most grandchildren at class reunions and other events, a testament to the profound love she had for her family. Beyond her professional life, Zilda was a vibrant soul with an adventurous spirit. She had a passion for shopping and an insatiable love for the beach, where she found joy and solace. Her adventurous nature led her to explore new restaurants and foods, which gave her the fuel to carry out her joyful approach to life. Zilda's many "collections" served as a reflection of her unique interests and eye for beauty. To her beloved grandchildren, Zilda was more than a grandmother; she was a cherished "grandma," always bringing joy and affection into their lives. To her nieces and nephews, she was endearingly known as "SueSue," a name that carried with it the warmth and love she shared with them.

SueSue's family was her treasure. She lived for each and every one and cherished the times she shared with them. Her first favorite passion was throwing big BBQs where she would start cooking at 3:00 AM to slowly cook the meat to perfection for dinner at 5:00 PM. Friends and family would come together for an all-day event.

It wasn't unusual to have a party of 40 or more. For SueSue, "the more the merrier" was a true statement. She lived to cook. Food was her love language, and she passed that language on to her four children, grandchildren and great grandchildren who are carrying on that legacy. Her second favorite passion was her yard and yardwork. She never passed on the opportunity to combine riding mower day



Zilda Sue Darby Bland

with sunbathing as she kept her yard immaculate and beautiful for all to see. She will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved her.

Our hearts are heavy with the passing of our matriarch and the last of her generation, but her legacy will live on through her loving family.

We are forever grateful to her for teaching her family how to love, give and how to keep going when times get tough.

She is preceded in death by her parents, J.C. and Imogene Darby; her husband, Robert "Bob" Bland, Jr.; her sister and brother-in-law, Geraldine and Johnny Ford; her brothers, John, David, Jack, Claude, and Grady; her sisters, Lattie Jo, and Jean Beatrice; her daughter Melissa Davis; and her Sons-in-Law, Mack Coyle, and Leslie Juneau.

She is survived by her daughters, Jamie Juneau, and Lori Jean Coyle; her son, Joe Henry Adkins, Jr. and wife, Betty; her stepson, Robert Bland III and wife, Lisa; 19 grandchildren; 48 great-grandchildren; and numerous other loving family members and friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be Joe Adkins, Jeremiah Coyle, Bradley Coyle, Dathan Juneau, Amadee Juneau and Mason Juneau. Honorary pallbearers are Damon Coyle, Sean Kemna, Nathan Sickler and Gabe Sickler.

The family extends a special thanks to the Staff of Mid Jefferson Extended Care Hospital of Beaumont. Their compassionate and loving care was nothing less than exceptional and we cannot thank them enough.



Orangefield Homecoming Court announced . . .

LEFT TO RIGHT ARE:

Football Beau - Sawyer Alfaro Football Sweetheart - Landri Bertrand Freshman - Laila Agerton, Sophomore - Ava Walker, Junior - Blair Butler
2024 Homecoming Queen Candidates: Maci Waguespack, Maysie Carpenter, Sadie Malagarie and Natalie Black.
Band Sweetheart - Embrie Manshack, Band Beau - Matthew Golemon



Orangefield Student Council hosts Leadership Luncheon addressed by Mayor Sprears

Orangefield High School's Student Council hosted a Leadership Luncheon. Officers from multiple campus organizations met together for an impactful message from Mayor Larry Spears, Jr. and powerful planning time together. The group of campus leaders made plans to engage, involve, and impact the entire student body while serving the local community.

See More Death and Memorial listings Page 5A

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In God's Time From Page 1

Mathews-Hunter. "It was a real cool experience."

Besides the repairs to the church, another reason the program wasn't started before now, was the fact that the Wednesday night Bible study had been online only since the pandemic. They had also lost many members of the congregation, so funds were barely covering the regular bills.

Fast forward to a little over a year ago and a new pastor arrived at Salem UMC, the Rev. Emanuel D. Echols. A young 27-year-old when he arrived, one of the things he did this past year was to return to in person Bible study on Wednesday nights. He started first with a six-week course on your spiritual gifts.

"I've been waiting for that class my whole life," said Mathews-Hunter. Once completed, they began their regular Wednesday night Bible study with a meal. "We started our first Bible study on Valentine's Day."

For this year's VBS program, Mathews-Hunter decided to rerun a previous program rather than buying a new one, thereby saving those funds so they could be used for CodeMonkey.

She approached the new pastor to present the program and ask for permission to move forward.

"Yeah, when can we start?" asked Echols. "Let's go ahead and do it. We've got the kids. I all we gotta do is just let the parents know that we're ready to do it."

"Why can't we ask these parents to bring their babies (to Bible study) and then I could just go poking (around in the program) with them."

Echols said that that was a great idea and that is how it began.

There was only one problem. When they purchased the program, they discovered the computers they previously purchased did not run on an operating system compatible with the program. They



Valenta Mathews-Hunter demonstrates how children will learn to code for computers, drones and robots through game play acquiring bananas and treasure chests on computers donated by the nonprofit organization Endeavors. RECORD PHOTO: Penny LeLeux

needed computers with Windows. They only had one computer on which it would work. They were also working on other educational needs of the children. It was discovered that most of the children didn't know their sight words and since handwriting is no longer taught in public schools, most 4th and 5th graders signed their name like a kindergartener. There was work to be done. Since there was only one computer that could run CodeMonkey, most students worked on reading and writing skills and they got the opportunity to work just one at a time on the computer.

Mathews-Hunter was on the hunt for more computers that could run the program. She tried surplus locations, pawn shops, computer repair shops, Goodwill, Salvation Army, any place of which

she could think. One morning she found herself outside of the Hard Drive on 16th Street.

"I was about to buy whatever I could buy with my own money cause my babies came were using one computer and I was letting them make one move each," she said. "They were so excited they didn't know what to do."

A woman she knows was also outside the shop, Maquettia Ledet. Mathews-Hunter laughed because she said Ledet hurried up to beat her inside. Ledet isn't a member of Salem UMC, but she frequently attends events there. When the clerk started working on something for Ledet and saying it would take a few minutes, Mathews-Hunter asked if she could tell Ledet what she was working on and asked if she knew anybody that could help. Ledet responded to let her

think about it a minute and she would see if she could come up with something.

Ledet said, "There's this company that people send their computers back to but I don't know what they do with them after they send them back."

About three weeks later, Ledet called Mathews-Hunter and said, "I spoke to my supervisor and he's looking into it." Two weeks later she's like, "He said yes but I

don't know how many." Then Mathews-Hunter said she received a message they were being dropped in the mail because they were coming from San Antonio. Eight computers arrived about 10 days ago from Endeavors, a nonprofit.

Ledet and her son, Mark, set the computers up last week and the children will have their own computer to work on Wednesday night.

"I didn't even know that Endeavors existed or I have no idea what Endeavors does. She never explained it to me she just said they were on their way."

According to their website Endeavors works on homelessness prevention/stabilization, parenting programs, financial assistance, and mental health-care for those in need.

Endeavors created branded mousepads especially for the kids.

CodeMonkey is for youngsters 5 to 15. Upon completion of the program at age 15 her students will be eligible to apply for a drone operators license and make money. Currently the program is only available to members of Salem UMC.

Next on Mathews-Hunter's list...she wants to start a day care at the church.

All in God's time.



Dr. Gwendolyn Lavalais, center, medical director for the Julie Rogers Gift of Life program, talked to Orange County Commissioners Court about upcoming events and services for October, which is Breast and Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month. Dr. Lavalais, along with volunteers, accepted a proclamation from the court. The program offers free mammogram screenings to women with no private insurance, Medicare, or Medicaid. Call 409-833-3663 for more information or to schedule a screening. RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal

County business From Page 1

group permission to display a banner in front of the courthouse during October.

The court voted to set a schedule for regular meetings in 2025. Even though the Orange County Republican Party presented a resolution asking the court to hold night meetings, the court agreed that a 10 a.m. meeting is convenient. All five members of the court are Republicans.

After Republican Chair Cheryl Warren asked about why not have night meetings, County Judge John Gothia explained the reasoning. He said if meetings are held in the evening, county department heads and employees who need to attend would be working overtime and it would cost the county money.

However, he told Warren he had already scheduled a 6 p.m. public hearing for the tax rate and budget.

The Republican resolution was made after the tax and budget public hearings were held at 9 a.m. on a Tuesday morning this summer, a time that did not allow working taxpayers to attend and make comments.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Robert Viator updated the court on the right-of-way land the county will need to buy to allow the Texas Department of Transportation to build a new replacement bridge on North Tram Road.

Judge Gothia said TxDOT is building the bridge through the federal infrastructure plan. Two bridges, including two in Precinct 2, are set to be re-

placed.

Viator said the county will need to buy 0.1 acre, or 0.2 acre. He said buying the extra right-of-way land will be easier for county workers to maintain the bridge. "We're responsible for maintaining it down the line," he said.

If the county decides not to buy the right-of-way for the new bridge, TxDOT will close the old bridge to traffic.

Commissioners are hoping the costs of the right-of-way stay around \$7,000.

The court also approved a contract for Vested Network to install a new county phone system with new telephones in the offices. Gothia said the new system will save a lot of money with a cost at \$9,625 a month. With the current system, the county is paying nearly \$46,000 a month.

Bills approved to be paid included \$83,400 from the general fund for insurance for retirees age 65 and older, \$2,300 from the general fund to Memorial Funeral Home for indigent funeral expenses, \$1,150 from the general fund to Claybar Funeral Home for indigent funeral expense, and \$60,000 from the general fund to Spindlemedia or tax collection software.

Also, the court approved paying Triangle Concrete Services \$35,965 from the federal American Rescue Plan grants to cover the costs of site preparation at the new county Health Service Building being constructed by the Expo Center on FM 1442.

Meals on Wheels

wich lunches were sold at \$15 each.

Tuesday, Orange County Commissioners Court approved a resolution to support the local Meals on Wheels to get a grant from the Texas Department of Agriculture Texans Feeding Texans Home Deliv-

ered Meals program.

The local group is also supported by contributions from Orange County, the city of Orange, United Way of Orange County, Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission, and private donations.

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From the Creaux's Nest

ALLRED AND CRUZ IN TIGHT SENATE RACE

There was a time in Texas that the **United States Senate race** was always the hottest, most expensive race. **Orange County** was once a hot bed for U.S. Senators. The state has two senators who do not face elections at the same time for six-year terms. Most states have a senator from each party. Texas, for 30 years, has had two **Republican senators**. This election cycle could change that. A new poll puts U.S. Rep. **Colin Allred** up by one point over U.S. Sen. **Ted Cruz**, as the candidates bid to represent Texas on Capitol Hill. Several polls in recent weeks have shown a tight race between **Allred**, a Dallas Democrat, and **Cruz**, a Republican who has served as one of the state's two senators since 2013. The latest poll from **Morning Consult**, which describes itself as a "global decision intelligence company," is the first to have **Allred** ahead, according to a roundup of polls from 538. Forty-five percent of likely voters said they support **Allred** and 44% said they support **Cruz**. A **University of Houston Hobby School** and **Texas Southern University Jordan-Leland School** have had **Cruz** ahead by about 2 points. **Cruz** has argued **Allred** is too radical for Texas, and **Allred** has worked to stress bipartisanship. The two are scheduled to debate each other for the first time on Oct. 15. **Congressman Allred** has built a campaign to win, and **Cancun Cruz** is more vulnerable than ever," **Allred** campaign spokesperson **Josh Stewart** said in a written statement. "His policies hurt Texans, whether it's his extreme abortion ban or his tax cuts for billionaires. This November, Texans are finally going to get a Senator they don't have to be embarrassed by." **National Democrats** see Texas as one of their best pickup opportunities, though they are more focused on defending their incumbents in other states.

'JIMMY' JENKINS LEFT US LAST WEEK

James Arden 'Jimmy' Jenkins passed away September 16, two days before his 82nd birthday. His death came as a surprise to me. I learned from Phillip Welch that he had attended Jimmy's funeral service Friday. The last time I had spoken with Judge Chad Jenkins I was under the impression that his father would be going home from the nursing home where he was receiving therapy. He passed away Monday. He was a good, well respected man. Please read his obituary in this issue. Condolences to his family and many friends.

CONDOLENCES

We were sorry to learn about the passing of **Bart Allen Corder**, 56, of Orange, who passed away on September 18, 2024, at his home in Orange. Funeral services was held Tuesday, September 24, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Born in Orange, Texas, on February 20, 1968, he was the son of Richard Corder and Delitha Ruth Pevetor Corder. A proud graduate and athlete of Orangefield High School, Bart cherished his time as a football player, where his talent earned him the distinguished All State Honor.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 5 Years Ago-2019

I woke up Sunday morning confused, was I in the twilight zone or had I dreamed the events of the last few days? **Imelda**, a rain carrying storm, had hit the **Gulf Coast** area, from Houston to Cameron, Louisiana.****While many people in the **Mauriceville area** were flooded out, **Josette** and **Van Choate** opened their doors of **Tuffy's** and fed everyone who came by and also gave them extra meals to take home to their families. They fed hundreds of families. The **Choate's** are two of the finest and generous folks I know.**** Trump must really be concerned about the run against former VP **Joe Biden**, as well he should be. **Trump** and **Rudy** have fabricated the **Biden Ukraine** story. The **Wall Street Journal**, owned by **Rupert Murdoch**, who also owns **FOX News**, broke a story that **Trump**, eight times, had asked the **Ukraine** president to come up with some dirt on **Biden's** son. **Hunter**, where there isn't any dirt. **Trump** has the most corrupt administration in my lifetime, since day one, when five cabinet members were convicted. There is no line **Trump** won't cross. There will be a price to be paid, even if it's after **Trump** leaves office. Something **Rudy Giuliani** might think about is that **Trump's** former attorney **Michael Cohen** once said he would take a bullet for **Trump**. Now he is serving a three year prison sentence. He became the fall guy. **Rudy** has much

in common with **Cohen**. History might repeat itself. There's a book out call "Everything Trump Touches Dies." Many bodies are left in **Trump's** wake.

15 Years Ago-2009

Lamar State College-Orange celebrates its 40th anniversary Wednesday. A reception honoring first president, **Dr. Joe Ben Welch**, who played a large part in getting the school off to a good start. Also being honored is former **Sen. Carl Parker**, one of our local guys, who always looked after the home folks. **Parker** is one of the smartest people I've known. If not for **Sen. Parker's** efforts setting up **Lamar-Orange** and **Lamar-Port Arthur** as state schools both would have community college status. This would mean the schools would be supported by a taxing district paid for by local citizens and would just be a shadow of itself. **Parker's** bill attached the school to the **Texas State System** along with **Texas, TCU, A&M and others**. Local taxpayers have been saved millions of dollars.****Former **State Rep. Ron Lewis** is also being honored. He is primarily responsible for the establishment of the **Lamar** library bearing his name. His friendship with **Gov. Perry** that goes back to when they were freshmen representatives was a major factor in **Ron** getting the library funded by the state.******Carlton "Corky" Harmon** is another honoree. "Corky" and the committee he has served on many years, the **Lamar Foundation**, are responsible for almost every acquisition of property the university now owns. The expansion of **Lamar** would have been impossible without the great work of that foundation. **Harmon** has been a member of the **Foundation** since its inception. The recognition of these men is well deserved. **Lamar** is a great asset to the greater Orange area. **Through good leadership it continues to grow.** (Editor's note: Today LSCO has a great leader in **Dr. Tom Johnson**.)****On Sept. 22, there was a tragic auto accident in which three women lost their lives and a three-year-old precious little girl hangs on to be the only survivor. **We feel for the families of all those who lost their lives in that crash on FM 1442.** One of those people was beautiful **Kathy Viator**, the only child of **Beverly Mire** and **Wilson Roberts** and beloved wife of **Blain Viator**. We had known **Kathy** since her dad, longtime peace officer, was Bridge City's first police chief. **Kathy** was one of the prettiest teenagers around. On Nov. 15, she would have been 48. **Kathy** raised a family of four children. (Editor's note: Since then **Kathy's** dad, **Wilson Roberts**, has passed away.)

45 Years Ago-1979

Orange's recording artist **Jim Taylor's** newest record, "The Old Man and the Organ," has been released. The flip side is "One Too Many Times." His last release made it into the top 100.****The **Opportunity Valley News's** sister paper, **Community Post**, published its first issue this week in Port Arthur. The response to the new 32-page paper has been great and has proved to be a good outlet for local advertisers. (Editor's note: The paper did have tremendous success and it and the **OVN** in Orange were sold nine months later to Cox Enterprises by the **Dunn** family.)

50 Years Ago-1974

Orange County tax assessor collector Louvenia Hyrhorchuk and her crew were awarded the top rating by the state of Texas.******Carl Thibodeaux** put a wreath on **Doug Harrington's Pharmacy** front door. The oldest, ugliest wreath with a sign that read "Big Red is Dead." The next day it reappeared at **Carl's West Orange Pharmacy** after **Bridge City** defeated the **West Orange Chiefs** 7-0. The only score was a 43-yard run by **Charlie Hillebrant**. **Richard Slydon** is Bridge City quarterback. **Andre Robinson** was the top ground gainer for the **Chiefs**. **Randy Feverjean** was the top defender for the **Cards**.**** In the Texas House, **Rep. Carl Parker** is running for speaker against **Bill Clayton**, who appears to have the speakership locked up after switching some of **Parker's** commitments. (Editor's note: **Sen. Carl Parker** passed away March 22, 2024 at age 89.)

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Nineteen years have now passed since **Hurricane Rita** blew destructive winds through **Orange County** and changed lives. Seems like our lives have become a series of destructive tropical storms and hurricanes ever since. **Rita's** winds blew so many trees down that it was simply hard to comprehend. **Brown Claybar**, who was mayor of **Orange** at the time, said the city 'was like Christmas morning. There was a tree in every living room.' And those trees had crashed through roofs and then had rain blow in. Since then, we've had **Ike** that sent a storm surge and **Harvey** with 60 inches of rain to flood most everything. And other destructive storms like **Humberto, Laura, and Delta**. **South-east Texas** is breathing a sigh of relief for the weekend as it looks like the next **Gulf of Mexico** storm is heading toward Florida.****Former **Dallas Cowboy Kevin Smith** was back at his alma mater, **West Orange-Stark High School**, this past Friday as he was one of four of the inaugural inductees into the **Mustang Hall of Honor**. Others were **Travesa Gant-King, Bonnie Perry, and Earl Thomas III**. **Earl** did not attend, but family represented him.****Congratulations to **Rose Lori Thayer**, a longtime reporter for the **Stars and Stripes** publication. The **WO-S** and **University of Texas** grad won a top journalism award for her coverage of the military.****West Orange City Councilor **Meritta Kennedy** and husband **Danny** are now great-grand-

parents with the birth of **Wyatt Dean Picket**.******Steve and Gail Maddox** are continuing their European travels with scenic tours of Norway.******Bonnie Bufford** took in sights and food in New Orleans.**** We hope **J-ro Briggs** is feeling better.******Jo Harris** is happy to report that the upcoming **Special Angels Rodeo** fundraiser dinner on September 28 is sold out.******Meri Elen Jacobs**, retired **WO-S** journalism teacher who has written a book about navigating the prison system will have a book signing the Saturday, September 28, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at **Restored Furniture and More**, 2303 16th Street in Orange.****This week in 1934, on September 24, Babe Ruth said farewell to baseball at Yankee Stadium. The Yankees faced the Boston Red Sox. The Red Sox won 5-0. In his career Babe had played for both teams.**** Coach **Bum Phillips**, was born in Orange at home on John St. 101 years ago, on August 29, 1923. May we never forget what he contributed to sports.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

Celebrating on Sept. 25 is **Donna Ford, Ola Kin-dle, Joellen Grooms, Phyllis Tarter, Scott Stout, Cameron Pitts, James Scott, Jeffery Armand, Kai-ley Childress**. Joining them are actors **Michael Douglas**, and **Mike's** wife, **Catherine Zeta-Jones**, also **Donald Glover**.****Sept. 26: Former B.C. Police Chief, one of Annie's boys, **Joey Hargrave** celebrates. Also **Kyra Day, Lynn Gremillion, Mary Gremillion, Theresa Blanchard, Vicki Jeter, Byron Buchanan, C.G. Birdwell, Deven Young** all have birthdays on this day. Also celebrating are tennis player **Serena Williams**.****Sept. 27: **Hayley Dardeau, Gaynell Murrell, Jack Short, Michael Coffey, Staria Lee, Jeff Batchelor, Ray Dahi, Scott Harris**, have birthdays today. Joining them are rapper **Lil Wayne**, actress **Gwyneth Paltrow**, and rock singer **Meatloaf**.****Sept. 28: Special Birthday to Roy's sister **Fay Boudoin**, former editor **Darryl Brinson** and longtime friend **Butch Thurman**. **Carl** and **Mika's** little boy, **Tyler Thibodeaux**, turns 30 today. Also **Peggy Derouen, Brigitte Howard, Sherry Mulholland** and **Mat Taylor** have birthdays on this day. They are joined by actors **Naomi Watts**, and **Michael Ronda**.****On Sept. 29: **Aaron Milligan** and **Priscilla Burns** celebrate. Celebrities having birthdays on this day are basketball player **Kevin Durant**, comedian **Andrew Dice Clay**.****Sept. 30: Special day for **Willow Grace Ballou, Mark Dunn's** granddaughter and the **Dunn's** great-granddaughter, turns 10 years old today, she's quite a dancer. Also our friend **Richard Albair**, **Peggy's** other half and a great guy, celebrates. For years they have been fighting the Cow Bayou Bridge. **Brandon Taylor, Denna Elizondor**, and **Martha Hankins** celebrate today. Joining them are actors **Fran Drescher, Levi Miller**.****Oct. 1: Celebrating today is **Julie Lund, Brenda** and **Bubba's** daughter. **Julie** is a great kid, a good student who may someday be a doctor or vet. Celebrating also **Aaron Iles, Jamie Freeman, Kim Cooper, Brandon Gerald** and **Kenton James**. Also celebrating are **Julie Andrews**, and former U.S. president **Jimmy Carter**, who will turn 99 years old today.**** Birthday greetings go out also to **Theresa Beauchamp, Eric Mitchell, Diane LeBlanc, Timmy Campbell, Jimmy Prewitt, Denisha LaFleur, Katie Kranz, Carrie Elizabeth Wilson, Brodrick Harrell, Leslie Sparks, Max MacKenzie Adams, Jackson Kovatch, Marlee Bird, Ditztorsha Lavan, Stewart Duckworth, Jay Hall, Jenn Pool, Kelli Patten, and Sheri Bethard**.**** Happy anniversary to **Louis and Carole Nance** for reaching 62 years of marriage. Congratulations.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Agnes Boudreaux is da church gossip her. She appointed herself monitor of da church's morals and kept sticking her nose in everybody's business. Several members of **Rev. Gaspard's** church didn't approve of **Agnes's** behavior but fearing her wicked tongue dey said notin dem.

Agnes made a mistake however. She accused **Joe Comeaux**, a new member of da church, of being an alcoholic drunk him after she saw his old pickup truck parked in front of **Tee-Boy's Bar** for several hours. **Agnes** told **Comeaux** and utta members, "Dat it's easy to see dat everyone would know wat **Comeaux** was doing him dere so long.

Joe, a man of few words him, stared at **Agnes** for a moment, said nuttin, just turned and walked off. Later dat night **Comeaux** quietly parked his old pickup in front of **Agnes's** house den he walked home. He left da old truck dere all night. (You gotta love dat **Comeaux**.)

C'EST TOUT SHOHEL OHTANI AT IT AGAIN

The **Los Angeles Dodgers** superstar hit his 52nd home run and stole his 52nd base on Friday night, breaking the major league record for going deep and stealing in the same game. It's the 14th time **Ohtani** has achieved the feat. **Ohtani's** heroics occurred a night after becoming the first player in major league history with 50 home runs and 50 stolen bases in a season. His 52nd homer came off a 3-2 pitch from **Kyle Freeland**. In Miami on Thursday, **Ohtani** had the first three-homer game of his career, all coming after the sixth inning, his first six-hit game and a franchise and career-record 10 RBIs. No one in MLB history has done that before. "People just like to watch greatness, and he's going to go down as one of the greats of all time." **Dodgers** manager **Dave Roberts** marveled at **Ohtani's** achievements. "It seems there are no limits for him. He's probably looking at 60-60," **Roberts** said.****I've gotta shut down. Shop our **Family of Advertisers** and tell them we sent you. Thanks for your time. **Take care and God bless.**

Deaths & Memorials

Charles "Charley" Joseph Hartman 75, of Orange

Charles "Charley" Joseph Hartman of Orange, Texas, passed away on Sept. 20, 2024 in Houston, Texas, the age of 75.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2024, at First Baptist Church in Bridge City, Texas. Officiating will be Darrell Segura.

Visitation will be held prior to the service from 10-11 a.m., Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at First Baptist Church in Bridge City, Texas.

Born on February 22, 1949, in Port Arthur, Texas, Charles dedicated over 40 years of his life to the sea as a merchant marine, a career that allowed him to experience the world while shaping his adventurous spirit. Charles was not only dedicated professional but also an individual with a love for music. He found joy in playing guitar and participated actively in bands



Charles "Charley" Hartman

alongside his friends, sharing his musical talents and creating cherished memories. His enthusiasm for music complemented his larger-than-life personality, making him a cherished companion among those fortunate enough to know him.

He leaves behind a loving family, including his daughter Heather Jonasson and her husband Mans, and his two grandsons, Leo Jonasson and

Max Jonasson. Charles is also survived by his brother, Len Hartman, and his wife Darlyne, who will carry forward the legacy of family bonds and memories he cherished.

Charles was preceded in death by his parents, Oliver Joseph Hartman and Pauline Davenport Hartman.

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

JoAnn Bradley, 83, of Orange

JoAnn Bradley, 83, of Orange, Texas, passed away on September 22, 2024, at home surrounded by her loved ones.

Funeral services will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, September 26, 2024, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.



JoAnn Bradley

QVC, and loved showering her loved ones with lots of these things.

JoAnn had a strong faith and was active at Old First Orange Baptist Church for many years. She spent the last 65 years cherishing the love of her life, Luther Albert Jr. or June, as she called him often. They met through his sister, Lenora, at a basketball game in high school. JoAnn loved the home and life they built together and she will be

greatly missed.

She is preceded in death by her parents, T.J. and Alva Godeaux; her loving husband of 64 years, Luther Albert Bradley, Jr.; and her sister, Bobby Godeaux Askew.

Those left to cherish her memory include her daughter, Janet Bradley Peevey and husband, William; sons, Luther Wayne Bradley and wife, Sam, and Steven Kyle Bradley and wife, Christy; grandsons, William Eric Peevey and wife, Amy, Joseph Bradley Peevey and wife, Ashlee, Zachary Shane Peevey and wife, Marissa, Justin Wayne Bradley and wife, Abigail, Justin Ray Henry, and Blake Allen Bradley; granddaughters, Marlee Nicole Bradley and Kylie Olene Bradley; great-grandchildren, Will, Greyson, Rhett, Bodee, Rylie, Emmi Jo, Demi and Ivie; as well as numerous other loving family and friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be William Eric Peevey, Joseph Bradley Peevey, Zachary Shane Peevey, Justin Wayne Bradley, Blake Allen Bradley, and Justin Ray Henry.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made in her memory to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Barbara Ann Lassiter 85, of Bridge City

Barbara Ann (Lambert) (Herron) Lassiter, 85, of Bridge City, Texas, passed away peacefully on Saturday, September 21, 2024, at Bonne Vie Nursing Home in Port Arthur. Born on July 30, 1939, in Georgetown, South Carolina to Ruth (Neeley) and John Marion Lambert. Barbara was raised by her father and stepmother Cristabell Lambert.



Barbara Ann Lassiter

community. Her love for music and cooking infused joy into the lives of those around her, as she opened her home to youths in need, embodying her spirit of generosity and kindness.

Barbara's life was marked by her proudest accomplishments, including the deep connections she maintained with her friends since childhood, Myrtle and Mary Kate from South Carolina. She was a beacon of strength and compassion, and her legacy continues through the countless lives she touched.

Barbara was preceded in death by her parents, Ruth Neeley and John Marion Lambert; her stepmother, Christabell Lambert; her first husband, James Edward Herron, with whom she shared forty-two years of marriage; her second husband, James Albert Lassiter, with whom she spent twenty-three years; her daughter, Elizabeth Ann Royer; and her siblings, Frances Lambert, John Marion Lambert, James Herrick, and Alma Smith and her husband Steve.

A visitation to honor Barbara will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., with the funeral to begin at 11:00 a.m., at Faith Tabernacle Apostolic Church located at 10169 Memorial Blvd., Port Arthur, Texas, 77640. Interment to follow at Oak Bluff Memorial Park in Port Neches.

Barbara Ann (Lambert) (Herron) Lassiter will be remembered for her unwavering love, compassion for others, and her lasting contributions to her family and community.

Barbara is survived by her daughters, Cindy Lee Sanders of Vidor, Texas, Lori Denise Philpott and her husband Clarence of Bridge City, Texas, and Jamie Carol Essex and her husband Chris of Orange, Texas. She was blessed with fourteen grandchildren, thirty-eight great-grandchildren, and nine great-great-grandchildren, with another on the way. Barbara is also remembered by her siblings, including Lana Ray of Nederland, Texas, John Michael Lambert of Georgetown, South Carolina, Jennifer Watts and her husband Jimmy of Georgetown, South Carolina, and Kenneth Herrick and his wife Nell of Panama City, Florida, along with a host of nieces and nephews. In addition to her immediate family, Barbara embraced her bonus children, Terry Odem of Moss Point, Mississippi, Tangie Shelton of Vidor, Texas, Mike Lassiter and his wife Kim of Spurger, Texas, and Pam Bryant and her husband Gary of Kountz, Texas, welcoming their families into her heart as her own.

A devoted member of Faith Tabernacle Apostolic Church for sixty-nine years, Barbara dedicated herself to her faith, teaching Sunday School for thirty-six years and working diligently within her church

James Arden "Jimmy" Jenkins 81, of Mauriceville

James Arden "Jimmy" Jenkins, 81, of Mauriceville, Texas, passed away on September 16, 2024, surrounded by family at his home.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m., Friday, September 20, 2024, at First Baptist Church in Mauriceville. Officiating was Reverend Kevin Brown. Burial followed at Jett Cemetery in Orange.

Born in Village Mills, Texas, on September 18, 1942, he was the son of Raymond Odis Jenkins and Lucille (McGraw) Jenkins. Jimmy was a devoted member of First Baptist Church Mauriceville, where he served as a deacon. After college, Jimmy had a long and fulfilling career as a Cable Repairman for Southwestern Bell/ATT, a job that allowed him to connect with many people in his community over the years. He and his wife, Sybil opened Mauriceville Feed & Grain along with many other businesses in his community. His lifelong passion for restoring and trading tractors and farm equipment led him to travel the US to different tractor and equipment auctions along with Sybil and eventually to start his own business, J.A. Farm Equipment. Among his many interests, Jimmy cherished the joyful pursuit of chasing his grandchildren across the United States to attend their rodeos, stock shows and sporting events. He was fondly known as "PaPaw," a name that echoed the joy and warmth he brought to the lives of his grandchildren and many others. His commitment to service also led him to be



James "Jimmy" Jenkins

come a founding member of the Mauriceville Crawfish Festival. His achievements were recognized when he was honored as Farmer of the Year in 2011, a reflection of his hard work and dedication to the agricultural community. Though he has transitioned from this life, the impact of Jimmy Jenkins will continue to resonate within the hearts of all who knew him. His legacy is one of his love for the Lord, familial devotion, community involvement, and a deep-rooted passion for life that will not be forgotten.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Lucille Jenkins, and his beloved wife of 52 years, Sybil Kathleen Boles Jenkins.

He is survived by his son Chad Jenkins and his wife Windee, daughters Aimee Drake and her husband Clayton, and Cara Little and her husband Lance; grandchildren, Tanner Jenkins and his wife Landry, Tyler Jenkins, Trever Jenkins, Kinlee Drake, Chance Little, and Chloe Little; great granddaughters, Murphie & Lennyn Jenkins and sister, Edna "Sissie" Smith, along with numerous other loving family members and friends who will carry forward the memories of his generous spirit and unwavering love.

Serving as pallbearers were Tanner Jenkins, Tyler Jenkins, Trever Jenkins, Chance Little, Clayton Drake and Lance Little. Honorary pallbearers are Judge Chad Jenkins and Guy Collins.

Place your order for Durham/Ellis pecans

Wesley United Methodist Church will be selling this years 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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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **PEGGY A. JAMES**, Deceased, were issued on **September 23, 2024, in Cause No. P20080**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **BRITNI ANN JAMES**.

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: **Barron Law Office P.O. Box 279 Orange, TX 77631-0279**

Dated the 23rd day of September, 2024.

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **PATSY JUNE REESE**, Deceased, were issued on **September 23, 2024, in Cause No. P20079**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **WYNDAL PAUL REESE**.

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: **Barron Law Office P.O. Box 279 Orange, TX 77631-0279**

Dated the 23rd day of September, 2024.

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

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of **BETTY RYAN LINCOLN**, Deceased, were issued on **September 23, 2024, in Cause No. P20054**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **JAMES EARL ZUMWALT**.

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

c/o: **James R. Dunaway Attorney at Law 108 7th Street Orange, TX 77630**

Dated the 23rd day of September, 2024.
James R. Dunaway
James R. Dunaway
Attorney for: Administrator of the Estate of Betty Ryan Lincoln
State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100
jrdunaway@sbcglobal.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **RAYMOND GUTIERREZ**, Deceased, were issued on **September 23, 2024, in Cause No. P20076**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **JAIME GUTIERREZ**.

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: **Jamie Gutierrez 4605 West Easy Street Vidor, TX 77662**

Dated the 24th day of September, 2024.
Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn
Attorney for: **Jaime Gutierrez**
State Bar No.: 08623700
202 S. Border Street Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)882-9990
Fax: (409)882-0613
Email:tommy@gunlaw.org

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **ROBERT D. HERB**, Deceased, were issued on **September 23, 2024, in Cause No. P20082**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **STEPHANIE EILEEN TEAGUE**.

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: **Barron Law Office P.O. Box 279 Orange, TX 77631-0279**

Dated the 23rd day of September, 2024.

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

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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

LARRY STANLEY DEWITT, Deceased
Cause No. P20123
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 the 19th day of September, 2024, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of LARRY STANLEY DEWITT, 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 19th day of September, 2024.

BRANDY ROBERTSON,
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas

By: Danielle Kendrick, Deputy
Danielle Kendrick

CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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

HARRY L. STEPHENS, Deceased
Cause No. P20096
in County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed AN APPLICATION FOR LETTERS OF DEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION in this estate on the 21st day of September, 2024, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of HARRY L. STEPHENS, 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 21st day of September, 2024.

BRANDY ROBERTSON,
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas

By: Danielle Kendrick, Deputy
Danielle Kendrick

PERSONAL CITATION BY PUBLICATION

The State of Texas

To **ANDREW CHILTON**

MARK ALLEN CHILTON, Deceased
Cause No. P20068
in County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas

THUY NGUYEN, The applicants for the above styled estate have filed in the County Court at Law of Orange County, a/an APPLICATION on 30th day of July, 2024.
YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO APPEAR by filing a written contest or answer or other required acts as may be stated herein. Such written contest or answer must be filed with the Clerk of this Court on or before 10 o'clock AM the Monday next following the expiration of ten days from the date of service of this citation, exclusive of the date of service.
A copy of the said APPLICATION is on file in this cause.
The officer executing this writ shall promptly serve the same according to requirements of law, and the mandates hereof, and make due return as the law directs.
Issued and given under my hand and the seal of said Court, at office in Orange, Texas on the 10th day of September, 2024.

BRANDY ROBERTSON,
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas
By: Danielle Kendrick, Deputy
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Orangefield, WOS chalk-up victories



Orangefield Bobcat quarterback Carson Gonzales hands off to running back Jojo Lecca during game action against the Lake Charles St. Louis Catholic Saints. The Bobcats won the bout 28-7.
RECORD PHOTO: Kayleigh Ritchey



Under pressure Orangefield Bobcat quarterback Carson Gonzalez (0) looks to throw a pass as Saints defenders try to drag him down.
RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.



Orangefield's Ethan Brown gets in position to take out a Saints defender during action against Lake Charles St. Louis Catholic school.
RECORD PHOTO: Kayleigh Ritchey

TOMMY MANN JR.
For The Record

The fourth week of high school football is in the record books and several Orange County teams had a bye-week. But Orangefield and West Orange-Stark had victories this past Friday evening. Below is a recap of all the action with photos.

Orangefield beats Saints

The Orangefield Bobcats seem to be rounding into form as the start of district approaches this week, as the Bobcats defeated the Lake Charles St. Louis Catholic Saints, 28-7, with a balanced offense and stout defense.

The Bobcats scored two rushing touchdowns and two passing touchdowns, while rolling up more than 430 yards of offense, while the defense limited the Saints to 140 total yards on the night.

Running back Mason Manning had touchdown runs of 1-yard and 8-yards, while quarterback Carson Gonzalez connected with receiver Zach Morrow on touchdown passes of 26 yards and 63 yards, respectively.

Orangefield's defense kept the Saints off the scoreboard until the early fourth quarter and never let St. Louis (0-3) be an actual threat at any point.

The Bobcats (2-2) begin District 10-3A Div. 1 play this Friday night as Orangefield hosts the undefeated Hardin Hornets (4-0).

Hardin is averaging 23 points per game on offense, while its defense is holding opponents to just 8-points per game on average. Meanwhile, through four games, the Bobcats offense is averaging nearly 18 points per game, but the defense has been allowing an average of nearly 21 points per

game.

Mustangs hold off Knights

The West Orange-Stark Mustangs started strong and had to hold on to defeat the Houston Bellaire Episcopal Knights this past Friday, 45-38.

The game looked to be a potential route in the first-

half as the Mustangs jumped out to a 31-14 lead at halftime. WO-S jumped out to an early 7-0 lead as running back Khelvy Jefferson had a 10-yard run for a touchdown.

Episcopal responded with a 24-yard touchdown pass on the ensuing drive to even the game, 7-7. However, Jefferson would add a 44-yard touchdown run and a 28-yard touch-

down catch-and-run from quarterback Marcus Turner Jr. to put WO-S ahead 21-7 as the first quarter ended.

The Mustangs (3-1) added a 25-yard field goal and another 62-yard touchdown run, this time by back running back Tahj Amerson, to take a 31-14 lead at halftime after a 10-yard touchdown pass by the Knights.

Episcopal came out in the third quarter red hot and added a short field goal, a 20-yard touchdown pass and 5-yard run for a score to tie the game, 31-31, at the end of the third quarter.

Turner put the Mustangs back ahead, 38-31, when he connected on a 65-yard touchdown pass to Miketavion Davis. The WO-S defense made its

presence known as well with two interceptions on back to back drives, both by Ja'Mikael Davis. The second interception went for a touchdown as Davis had a 13-yard return for the score and 45-31 Mustangs lead.

The Knights added a 20-yard touchdown pass to cut the WO-S lead, 45-38,

OC FOOTBALL Page 5B

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Fishing continues to get better

OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

We have all heard the saying "time flies when you are having fun" but there aren't many times you can actually watch it happen. The 16 day early teal season will come to a screeching halt on September 29th just about the time the biggest migration is forecast to enter our part of the flyway.

By all accounts most hunters saw a healthy influx of new birds beginning this past Saturday and the numbers have continued to build in many areas. To our east, across the state line into southwest Louisiana, the reports have been solid for the last several days as hunters in both the marshes and the rice fields have enjoyed some excellent hunts. The biggest surprise this week is the numbers of green winged teal that have shown up along side all the blue wings. Typically this means another part of the migration has begun and that should only bolster the numbers of birds coming into our part of the state.

More often than not the first wave of teal during the migration are mature adult males. After that the juveniles and mature females begin to show up. Based on harvest information it looks as if we are seeing a big influx of the younger birds right now and that has really helped out on the decoying action.

On a couple of my own personal hunts recently it was very evident how the population had seemed to change with more younger birds showing up along with good numbers of green wings as well. There has also been an increasing number of big ducks such as shovelers and gadwalls visiting the decoy spreads and that is a welcome sight as well. With the early teal season providing a brief taste of what's ahead you can bet area waterfowlers will be anxiously waiting on that opening weekend in November for the regular season get kicked off.

Now if you haven't been in the field to take advantage of some the early hunting opportunities hopefully you have been on the water where the bite in Sabine lake has gradually gotten better. Speckled trout have gotten a bit more consistent towards the mid lake area and that bite keeps inching farther north each day we go without rain. A legitimate north wind helping to dump some water would do wonders for the overall bite right now as plenty of white shrimp are still residing in the marshes. That first decent push of north wind should kick start the fall fishing that so many folks look forward to.

One other program that has been picking up some momentum as well has been the flounder bite. We are still a little early from the big migration but there are some good numbers of fish being caught right now and that's only going to get better. As we close in on the full moon in October look for the numbers and size of flounder being caught to increase rapidly before the season closes on November 1st and reopens on December 14th.

There are still folks taking advantage of a steady bite along the jetties and beachfront where some really nice quality speckled trout, triple tail, and even tarpon have been hanging out all summer. The offshore folks took advantage of some fabulous conditions this past week and boated some

CAPT. CHUCK Page 5B

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. Salinity in Sabine Lake has improved up to midlake. The South and North Levy are producing nice catches of speckled trout with live shrimp under a popping cork.

Sheepshead, drum and redfish are mixed in. Work the points and drops near Pleasure Island Point with live shrimp under a popping cork for redfish. The redfish are stacked on rocks near the bank in 4-8 feet of water. The entire ICW is holding a mix bag of flounder, sheepshead, drum and mangrove snapper. North winds are in the forecast heading into the weekend, so running the beaches should produce good catches of triple tail this next week.

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

• **Bolivar**

EXCELLENT. 83 degrees. Get ready for another week of Excellent fishing! Water temperatures are cooling after the storm clouds and tides. The jetty has been producing limits of trout and big bull redfish. Small flounder have been visible on the low tides and are starting to move in for the fall. Post-storm fishing will be some of the best. The surf is producing limits of speckled trout, bull redfish and black drum. The stingrays and bigger sharks are still running along the whole peninsula. Anglers are using all kinds of different bait with awesome results. Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

• **Trinity Bay**

SLOW. 85 degrees. Best catches coming from the northwest corner of the bay, spoil islands, Dow's Reef, and along the piers. Best bite of live natural baits and soft plastic. Few birds working over scattered schools of small trout. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

Redfish are holding tight to rock banks being caught on live shrimp under a popping cork and on WACKy shrimp rigged weedless by WAC Attack Lures. Drum and sheepshead are mixed in with the redfish. Trout are making a great comeback on deep shell reefs especially by Dow Reef being caught on swimbaits or in bottleneck places with current and relatively deep water. Always wear your kill switch! Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• **East Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 85 degrees. A few groups of birds are starting to work over schools of speckled trout, along with the occasional redfish. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Rising waters from the tides and out of the winds produced plenty of speckled trout, redfish, and black drum using live shrimp and/or finger mullet. Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp. Surface water temperature 84 degrees. The water clarity has improved this week in East Galveston Bay after the storm pushed through, with much clearer water as you venture



Anglers are using all kinds of different bait with awesome results.

closer towards Galveston. We have spent some of our fishing time on shorelines in the intracoastal finding trout, redfish, black drum and flounder around structures with good tide movement. We have also found good numbers of trout, but weeding through quite a few small ones to find the better fish, on mid-bay reefs and over shoreline shell. If you like fishing under birds, that has begun to pick up substantially over the past couple weeks. Redfish and flounder are still being caught up around shorelines where current is pushing bait, especially on outgoing tides. The crowds are thinning, and hunting season has ventured upon us but fishing should continue to be strong. There will be less fishing pressure and cooler temperatures on the way, so grab your friends and family and get out on the water and make some memories together. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Service, LLC.

• **Galveston Bay**

SLOW. 86 degrees. When the wind allows, good catches of speckled

trout coming off structure in the middle bay on live shrimp and soft plastics. Shorelines producing smaller speckled trout. Spoil Islands are good for black drum, sheepshead, and the occasional redfish on live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• **West Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 87 degrees. Far west side of San Luis Pass producing catches of speckled trout, redfish, and flounder. Those anglers throwing live natural baits on deep shell are catching speckled trout and a few redfish. Report by 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. 84 degrees. Bull redfish a few big black drum are good in the jetties. Offshore catches of amberjack and vermilion snapper are good. Beachfront pier action is good for bull redfish. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Great fishing conditions before the storms arrive mid-week and should be even better when it clears up. Anglers are catching plenty of speckled trout, redfish, and a few nice flounder every day 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. 85 degrees. There has been a good early morning and midday bite for redfish and trout. Redfish are in the back lakes on mid bay reefs. Redfish and drum can be targeted on shell reefs with artificials, live shrimp or croaker. These reefs will fill with trout when the weather cools. Many catches of oversized trout. As the water temperature cools in the 70s the artificial bite will be king. Report by Captain Charlie Paradoski, Captain Charlie Paradoski's Guide Service.

'The Lakes' Fishing

• **Toledo Bend Fishing Report**

FAIR. Water normal stain; 82 degrees; 3.99 feet below pool. Bass fishing is improving on topwaters and frogs first couple hours at day light. Once the sun rises switch to swim jigs and wacky worms. Deep fish are coming on Carolina rigs and few on spoons. The quality of fish is small right with very few keepers. Crappie are slow. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• **Sam Rayburn Fishing Reports**

FAIR. Water slightly stained; 82 degrees; 0.35 feet below pool. There continues to be a shallow and a deep bass bite with some schooling action. Bass are fair in shallow water over grass with topwaters, or on secondary points Carolina rigs and dropshots. Crappie are fair on 15-27 feet on brush piles with minnows over jigs. As the weather cools crappie will transition up the river on stumps. Blue and channel catfish are fair in 15-25 feet of water on cut bait and minnows. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service. Lake level is holding steady, but expect the lake to drop to 5-7 feet low to continue to work on the dam in the future. Fish are in all stages of the transition. Target bass with jig head minnows and forward facing sonar. Bass are suspended at the mouth of creeks and on offshores flats chasing bait. When bass are schooling on the bottom cast a Carolina rig, dropshot, and shaky head. Report by Hank Harrison, Double H Precision Guide Service. Fishing Guide.

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Orangefield receiver Zach Morrow (10) hauls in a pass for a 45-yard gain during Friday's 28-7 victory over St. Louis Catholic.

RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.



Orangefield Bobcat running back Mason Manning carries the ball behind a wall of Bobcat blockers against the Saints.

RECORD PHOTO: Kayleigh Ritchey



The Orangefield Bobcats take the field at F.L. McClain Stadium during Week 4 of football action in Orange County.

RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.



Orangefield running back Mason Manning (2) looks for some room to run as the Saints defense pursues.

RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.

Texas Celebrates National Hunting and Fishing Day Sept. 28

Staff Report For The Record

AUSTIN – The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) asks Texans to invite their friends and family into the outdoors to celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day (NHF) on Sept. 28.

This annual holiday, celebrated on the fourth Saturday of September, recognizes hunters and anglers for their contributions to wildlife and conservation.

Governor Greg Abbott issued a proclamation supporting the special day, saying in part, "Hunting and fishing offer a variety of individual, as well as collective, benefits. Being able to provide for yourselves and your loved ones is an innate drive, and to this end, hunting and fishing are unrivaled. These activities also deepen relationships with loved ones and with nature itself, boosting one's mental and emotional wellness. Moreover, there are numerous economic and ecological benefits that these activities provide to a state that prides itself on its robust economy."

Hunters and anglers primarily fund the state's wildlife management programs through the purchase of hunting and fishing licenses, stamps and endorsements, as well as through taxes paid on hunting and fishing equipment, motorboat fuel, firearms and ammunition. License purchases generate millions of dollars for conservation programs that benefit both game and non-game species statewide. According to a 2022 study, the total economic impact in Texas amounted to a combined \$27.6 billion for hunting, fishing and sport shooting activities.

"The significant contributions made by Texas' outdoors women and men toward research and species management is one of



This annual holiday, celebrated on the fourth Saturday of September, recognizes hunters and anglers for their contributions to wildlife and conservation.

the reasons why the tradition of hunting and fishing in Texas has endured for generations," said TPWD Executive Director David Yoskowitz. "Without the help of Texas' hunters, anglers, and landowners, biologists would not be able to complete critical projects aimed at preserving and maintaining the state's natural spaces and wildlife population. This year, in honor of National Hunting and Fishing Day, I invite all Texans to take a hunter education course, attend a neighborhood fishing event and learn how participating in these activities aids in conserving the environment and our native species."

For many years, the proportion of people who hunt and fish in Texas has lagged behind huge increases in state population. While Texas experienced a pandemic-influenced surge in outdoor recreation, it hasn't created a significant long-term increase in the total number of people participating in hunting and fishing, which could spell problems for natural resource conservation in the future. Conservation is mostly funded by these participants.

In 2021, TPWD

launched the Texas Recruitment, Retention and Reactivation (R3) Strategic Plan to connect more Texans to outdoor recreation and carry forward these time-honored traditions to future generations. Continued participation in fishing, boating, hunting and shooting sports helps fund efforts

such as fish stocking, access and habitat improvements, and mentored hunting programs, which introduce new hunters to the sport in a safe environment.

In addition to conservation, TPWD endeavors to foster lifelong participants in hunting, fishing, boating, and shooting sports,

and create a better-informed public with more interest in conserving wild things and wild places in Texas and beyond.

To learn about hunting, take an online or in-per-

son hunter education course. Hunter education certification is required for anyone born on or after Sept. 2, 1971 and equips them with the necessary information.



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A lost cat's 2-month, 900-mile journey to find home

OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ
Reported By
The Associated Press

A gray cat living an extraordinary life of visits to the beach and trips to the lake went on his biggest adventure alone: traveling hundreds of miles from Wyoming to California.

But how the feline named Rayne Beau — pronounced “rainbow” — made it home two months after getting lost in Yellowstone National Park during a summer camping trip remains a mystery.

Benny and Susanne Anguiano and their two cats arrived at Yellowstone's Fishing Bridge RV Park on June 4 for the cats' first trip to the forest. But soon after

they arrived, Rayne Beau was startled and ran into the nearby trees.

The couple looked for him for four days, even laying out his favorite treats and toys. When they finally had to drive back to Salinas, California, on June 8, Susanne Anguiano said she was crushed but never lost hope she would find him.

“We were entering the Nevada desert and all of a sudden I see a double rainbow. And I took a picture of it and I thought, that's a sign. That's a sign for our rainbow that he's going to be okay,” she said.

In August, the Anguianos received amazing news when a microchip company messaged them that their cat was at the So-



“I believe truly that he made that trek mostly on his own. His paws were really beat up. Lost 40% of his body weight, had really low protein levels because of inadequate nutrition. So he was not cared for,” Susanne Anguiano said.

ciety for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Roseville, California, nearly 900

miles (1,448 kilometers) from Yellowstone. He was only about 200 miles (322

kilometers) away from his home in Salinas.

A woman who first saw Rayne Beau wandering the streets of the northern California city fed him and gave him water until she trapped him on Aug. 3 and took him to the local SPCA.

The next day, the Anguianos drove to Roseville and picked up their cat, who had lost 6 pounds.

“I believe truly that he made that trek mostly on his own. His paws were really beat up. Lost 40% of his body weight, had really low protein levels because of inadequate nutrition. So he was not cared for,” Susanne Anguiano said.

The couple still doesn't know how their cat got to Roseville but believes he

was trying to get home. They have reached out to the media hoping to fill in the blanks.

Benny Anguiano said that besides microchipping their cats, they now have also fitted two of them with air tags and Rayne Beau with a GPS global tracker.

The cats love traveling in the camper and looking out the big windows to see deer, squirrels and other animals. But the family is not ready to get on the road with their pets again any time soon, he said.

“It was a very ugly feeling after we lost him,” Benny Anguiano said. “We'll have to practice camping at home and camp in the driveway to get him used to it.”

TPWD launches new Paddling Trail Website

Staff Report
For The Record

AUSTIN — Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) will launch a newly updated paddling trails website Sept. 22 in celebration of World Rivers Day. The revamped website is designed to give paddlers in-depth information and innovative tools to make the most of their adventures on the water.

“Whether you're looking for a tranquil afternoon getaway or an exciting paddling challenge, this resource is your gateway to finding and enjoying the perfect paddling trail,” said Shelly Plante, TPWD nature tourism manager. “We are excited about showcasing all the wonderful paddling experiences available throughout the state of Texas, and this newly designed website makes it simple for folks to find their perfect fit.”

The website features information on all 81 certified

trails in the state, including trail length, estimated paddling time and what paddlers can expect along each route. The website also highlights local wildlife viewing and fishing opportunities for each trail and provides information on nearby canoe and kayak rental services to streamline the planning process.

The new, interactive “Texas Paddling Trail Finder” application enables paddlers to search for trails by water body or location. The mapping tool allows visitors to visualize their options and select the perfect paddling destination based on the area of the state or water body they want to explore. Other helpful resources include a frequently asked questions section, flow gauges and conservation tips. Each trail on the website also features photos and detailed maps to aid in the navigation and planning process.

“With detailed trail information and an interactive

map, planning your paddling trips is more straightforward than ever,” added Plante. “Knowing what to expect, including wildlife and fishing options, enriches the preparation process and the adventure.”

Paddlers who are interested in getting the latest updates about upcoming trail launches and other news can subscribe to TPWD's paddling trail email list through the Texas Paddling Trails Website.

World Rivers Day was launched in 2005 and is celebrated annually on the fourth Sunday of September.

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Orangefield's Skylar Matute, 76, Fernando Sandoval, 22, Landon Kibodeaux, 23, Logan Trahan, 20 and Mason Manning, 2, lead the Bobcats on the field.
RECORD PHOTO: Kayleigh Ritchey

The Bobcats score another touchdown as seen on the face of Orangefield's Ty Butler during the 28-7 victory over St. Louis Catholic.
RECORD PHOTO: Kayleigh Ritchey

Captain Chuck

From Page 2B

impressive snapper and plenty of king fish as well. As long as that light wind forecast holds up you can bank on a steady stream of boats heading for the blue water because it'll be gone as quick as it got here and won't be back for a while.

On an unrelated note I read last weeks paper with both amazement and disappointment as the "Kamala Harris love fest" continued in full display while there was no mention of a second assassination attempt on former president Trump. The media blitz to legitimize Kamala Harris as a real candidate while painting Donald Trump as an evil "super villain" is beyond comical and borders

on frightening. Let this sink in a minute, just this week the IRS endorsed the Harris-Walz ticket, yes the same Internal Revenue Service who stand to gain 87,000 new agents if a certain party gets voted into office.

Remember two things, first is the same people who told the world for over 3 years that Joe Biden was "sharp" and "competent" are the same ones telling you Kamala Harris will be a good president. Also remember "the same ones who sell the panic sell the cure". Educate yourself and then go vote.

OC Football

From Page 1B

but on Episcopal's final possession, the Mustangs stuffed the Knights to seal the victory.

The Mustangs will host the Fort Bend Crawford Chargers (2-2) in its final non-district matchup of the season.

The Chargers are averaging 17 points per game on offense, but are allowing slightly more than 31 points

per game defensively. The Chargers have lost in blow-out fashion by scores of 62-0 to Bellville and, most recently, 50-13 to Hamshire-Fannett this past Friday.

WO-S is averaging 32 points per game on offense and is allowing nearly 22 points per game defensively thus far this season.

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Holiday in the Park booth areas 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). This home-town, community festival brings in people from around the area wanting to kick off the holiday season. The event will have food booths, craft booths, children's activities and will feature local entertainment.

Non-electrical booth spaces (14' x 14') are available for \$40 each, while electrical booth spaces (20' x 14') are \$65 each. Booths are rented on a first-come, first served basis. The City of West Orange reserves the right to the sale of all carbonated beverages.

NO alcohol of any kind will be sold at, or allowed on, the festival grounds. Rules and regulations, as well as a site map and registration form can be found on the City's website located at 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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What Will Your Home Teach?

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 first-born 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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