

# Penny Record

Vol. 65 No. 19

Distributed **FREE** To The Citizens of Bridge City and Orangefield

Week of Wednesday, October 2, 2024

## Deadline looms to register for Nov. 5 election

MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record

Monday, October 7, is the deadline to register to vote in November's general election that includes the presidential race and a race for a U.S. senator from Texas.

The presidential race is between Vice President Kamala Harris and Former President Donald Trump. Incumbent U.S. Senator Ted Cruz is running for another six-year term and facing Democrat Colin Allred, who is a member of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In Orange County, all local offices have uncontested Republican candidates. However, the Orangefield ISD is having a school board election and the Vidor ISD is having a bond election.

In addition the Emergency Services Districts No. 1 and 3 will be having board members on the ballot. ESD 1 serves the Vidor area and ESD 3 the Little Cypress area to provide fire and rescue.

October 7 is also the deadline to change an address on voter registration rolls. For instance, if a voter had lived in Bridge City and moved to Orangefield without changing their address, they would not be eligible to vote in the Orangefield school board race.

Senior citizens and the disabled have until October 25 to apply for a mail-in ballot. Ballots may be requested by citizens in nursing homes or assisted living centers.



Detailed information on registering or applying for a mail-in ballot is available under the Texas Secretary of State's Office website for elections by clicking on the "Voter" icon.

Locally, the Orange County Elections Administration Office is available for registration and mail-in ballot requests or to provide any information about the upcoming election day. The office is at 206 Border Street to the west of the courthouse with hours 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays. Phone questions will be answered by calling 409-882-7973, or by emailing elections@co.orange.tx.us. The physical mailing address is 123 Sixth Street in Orange.

Donna Alford is Orange County voting administrator and has 32 years of experience working with elections.

Early voting will begin October 21 and end November 1 with local sites at the Orange Public Library, Orange County Airport, Mauriceville Community Center, and the Raymond Gould Community Center in Vidor.



## Orangefield Bobcats record run-away Homecoming win

The Orangefield bleacher creatures race across the field ushering in the homecoming football game Friday night. The Bobcats defeated Hardin a whopping 59-0 to start the District 10-3A Division 1 campaign. SEE MORE PHOTOS PAGE 1B.

RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland

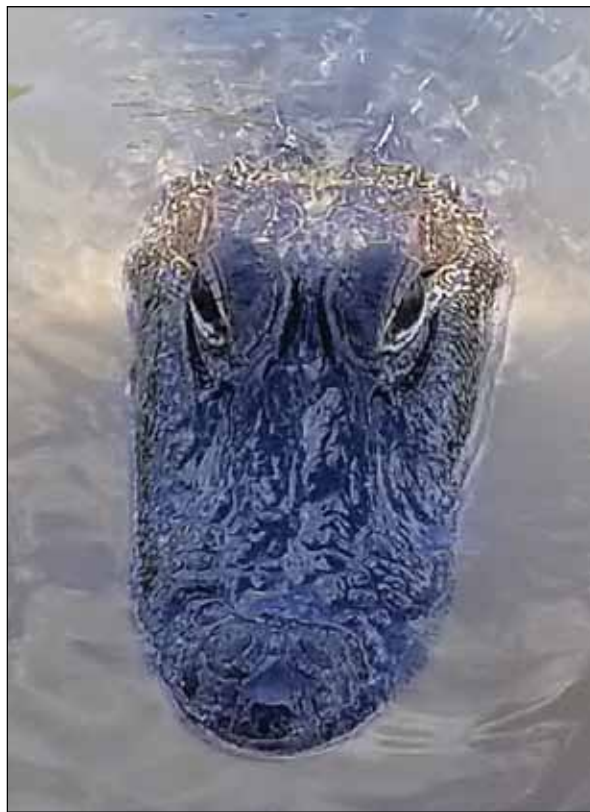
## Capt. Tate offers 'Creepy Creature' swamp tours

PENNY LELEUX  
For The Record

Have you ever been eye to eye with an alligator in its natural habitat at night? Their eyes glow in the dark. It's an eerie sight. That opportunity begins this weekend for the month of October.

Did you know it is rumored cannibals lived in the area years ago? Hear the tales and see the locations they roamed.

Capt. Eli Tate has been regaling visitors with local history and lore of the Texas/Louisiana swamps for over 25 years and he's introducing the "Creepy Creatures Wild Night Ride" for the Halloween season. The one-hour night tour will explore the swamp tunnel, offer up-



close animal encounters and visit cannibal sites every Friday and Saturday in October and Halloween night with tours starting at 7 p.m. There is special pricing for the nighttime tours: \$19 + tax for 12 and under, \$29 + tax for 13 and up. Babies ride free. You must call ahead to reserve your spot.

The daytime tours will also still be available. The daytime tours are approximately 1½ hours and run

Left: Alligators sometimes swim right up to the boat when Capt. Eli calls them with a whistle. At night their eyes glow red, orange or yellow. RECORD PHOTO: Penny LeLeux

CREEPY Page 3A

## 'Orangetober' Fest set for this weekend

MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record

Kids will be able to get free pumpkins in a variety of colors, sizes, and shapes Sunday afternoon at the end of Orangetober.

The city of Orange's annual fall celebration will begin Friday evening and continue into Saturday at the Riverside Pavilion by the Boat Ramp off Sim-



mons Drive.

It's become a tradition after the festival for people to get more than

10,000 pumpkins set up to decorate the pavilion area. The decorative and colorful displays have become a popular place to take family photographs.

Sunday at 1:30 p.m., kids will have a pumpkin scramble to get the pumpkins they can carry. Adults will be allowed at 2 p.m.

The main festival will open Friday evening. Ad-

mission and parking are free. Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs to use for relaxing and listening to live music. No outside food or coolers will be allowed. Pets are also not allowed.

Gates will open again on Saturday morning and activities will continue into the night.

"The Orangetober Festival is sure to provide fun

for the entire family with a great variety of events, activities, and photo opportunities! Festival goers can enjoy tours of the Pumpkin Village with over 10,000 pumpkins, a vendor market, gumbo cook-off, pumpkin pie eating contest, cornhole tournament, movie night featuring "Coco," The Big Pumpkin Run 5k, food vendors, craft beer, frozen

sangria from Free State Cellars, and live entertainment on the Riverside Pavilion stage by Paper-Chase, Drew Parker, and headliner Wade Bowen," according to Alison Clary, the city's social media director.

For more information, contact the Orange Convention and Visitors Bureau at 409-883-1011, or City Hall at 409-886-3611.



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Before each legislative session Nichols meets with each of the school district Superintendents in Senate District 3 to listen to their priorities and discuss issues facing the local education community.

# Sen. Nichols meets with Orange County Superintendents

Staff Report- For The Record

Bridge City, TX-- This week, Senator Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville) met with local superintendents from Orange County. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss education issues in preparation for the 89th Legislature which convenes in January.

"The Legislature faces many challenges this session, and we cannot make good decisions unless we are listening closely to those we represent," said Nichols. "Educating our children is and always will be one of the most important issues we face as a state."

Before each legislative session Nichols meets with each of the school district Superintendents in Senate District 3 to listen to their priorities and discuss issues facing the local education community.

Senate District 3, which includes almost 100 school districts throughout 18 counties, encompasses the greater part of East Texas and Jefferson County.

"These meetings help me to understand how decisions in Austin impact local schools," stated Nichols. "I appreciate the opportunity to meet with superintendents and discuss how we can continue improving our education system. Our combined goal is to ensure children have the educational tools they need to be successful."

# Texas' economy could take a hit if dockworkers' strike persists

Paul Cobler and Tim Carlin  
The Texas Tribune

Port Houston dock workers on strike at have damaging impacts on the local and state economy, largely depending on how long the walkoff lasts.

The U.S. Maritime Alliance, which represents employers at East Coast and Gulf Coast ports, and the International Longshoremen's Association, which represents 45,000 dock workers across 36 ports, have reached an impasse in labor contract negotiations. The longshoremen's current contract expires Monday night, and the union has voted to authorize a strike if a deal is not reached before then.

Longshoremen are the workers who load and unload shipping containers from cargo ships. A strike would mean cargo on ships would remain on ships and cargo on land would remain on land until the longshoremen return to work.

That squeeze on the supply chain could mean higher prices for everyday items like fresh produce, clothing, shoes, car parts and building materials, experts say.

Nationwide, the United States could lose nearly \$5 billion a day in imports and exports from a strike, with \$92 million coming from the Houston region alone, said Margaret Kidd, program director for the University of Houston's supply chain and logistics technology program.

A prolonged longshoreman strike across half the country, Kidd said, "would be our Armageddon."

A strike would force the port to stop all container handling operations at its two container terminals, Barbours Cut and Bayport, according to a Wednesday news release from the port. Operations at the port's general cargo and multi-purpose facilities also would be impacted, according to the release.

The port is not involved in the labor contract negotiations.

The longshoremen are seeking higher wages and protections from automation.

"My ILA members are not going to accept these insulting offers that are a joke considering the work my ILA longshore workers perform, and the billion-dollar profits the com-

panies make off the backs of their labor," ILA International President Harold Daggett wrote in a statement last week. "The blame for a coast-wide strike in a week that will shut down all ports on the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts falls squarely on the shoulders of USMX."

In its own statement Monday, the U.S. Maritime Alliance said the two sides have reached an impasse.

"Despite additional attempts by USMX to engage with the ILA and resume bargaining, we have been unable to schedule a meeting to continue negotiations on a new Master Contract," the statement said. "Our goal remains the same -- we want to bargain and avoid a strike, but time is running out if the ILA is

unwilling to return to the table."

It is unclear how many longshoremen union members work at the Port of Houston and could be on strike. A Port Houston spokesperson said she did not know and referred the Landing to the union. The ILA declined to comment further, citing ongoing negotiations.

A 2022 study prepared by Martin Associates for the Port of Houston found more than 1.5 million jobs are supported by Port activity, with the port holding nearly \$440 billion of total economic value — more than 18% of the state's GDP.

Ships arriving in Houston are unloaded onto trains and trucks before they are shipped across the

city and the surrounding region.

Houston is unique in the world of maritime trade, Kidd said, with its port being the largest in the country in terms of tonnage, and the fifth-largest in terms of containers.

A strike by the port's longshoremen would not affect most oil, gas and liquid chemical exports because they are not transported in the shipping containers longshoremen are needed to move, said Jesse B. Thompson III, a senior business economist at the Houston Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

"It's a mixed bag for Houston's core industries," Thompson said. "Oil and

**DOCKWORKER** Page 2A

## The Record Newspapers

### of Orange County, Texas

The Record Newspapers- The County Record and the Penny Record- are published on Wednesday of each week and distributed free throughout greater Orange County, Texas. The publications feature community news, local sports, commentary and much more. Readers may also read each issue of our papers from our web site [TheRecordLive.Com](http://TheRecordLive.Com).

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# Advance tickets on sale for Historic Ghost Walk

Margaret Toal  
For The Record

For the first time, Heritage House Museum is selling advance tickets to the annual Historic Ghost Walk through downtown Orange.

The ghost walk this year will be Saturday, October 26, with family-friendly tours from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., and "fright night" tours from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tour groups leave every 10 minutes.

Historic Ghost Walk started in 2016 and this will be the eighth annual one after missing one during the Covid pandemic. The ghost walk begins at Heritage House Museum, 905 West Division Avenue, and goes through

sites in downtown Orange. Costumed drama students from Orange County high schools tell true local history stories about events at the sites where they happened.

Stories have been researched and written by local writer Margaret Toal, who currently is the chair of the Orange County Historical Commission. Events featured in the ghost walk are rotated yearly.

The popularity of the event has made it expand into a festival with food trucks, Free State Winery, live music, children's crafts and games. For the past three years, the ghost walk has sold out and some had to be turned away.

Advance tickets will be on sale at the Heritage House administration building behind the main J.O. Sims house museum. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and younger.

The dates and times for advance ticket sales are Thursday, October 3, from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.; Tuesday, October 8, from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; Tuesday, October 15 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday, October 17, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and then Monday, October 21 through Friday, October 25, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Schools participating in the Historic Ghost Walk this year are Vidor, Bridge City, West Orange-Stark, and Orangefield.



## Orangefield students help Helene victims

Mrs. Feidler's Orangefield High School art classes made a comeback cooler to send to an area affected by Hurricane Helene. With Tamina Hogg (the owner of Apple Tree), they were able to pass it forward for all the assistance and help that Orangefield received in the past years. OHS wants to remind them that they are stronger than the storm.

A comeback cooler is designed with vibrant colors and meaningful symbols to represent home, resilience and community spirit. They are then delivered to hurricane victims, military, linemen and other groups involved.

## Creepy Creatures tours From Page 1



Capt. Eli Tate has offered swamp tours for over 25 years in Orange and is offering special night "Creepy Creature" encounters for the month of October.

RECORD PHOTOS: Penny LeLeux

year-round Tuesday through Sunday. They are closed Mondays except on holidays. Weekday tours start at 10 a.m. Sunday tours start at 2 p.m.

People come from around the world to see what the Sabine River Swamps have to offer in flora and fauna. Tate personalizes each tour by learning his patron's names and making them part of the tour, even naming some of the many gators seen, the same as the people on the boat.

The boat is covered with a canopy and you get a cool breeze when the boat moves between locations. The vessel is quiet, so it doesn't scare the wildlife. They have become so familiar with it and know it poses them no danger, that they tend to swim in closer when Tate whistles. Besides alligators, egrets, eagles, wild boars and more are frequently seen.

"This is the only place in

the country you can see all the different types of swamps in one area, because of the elevations," said Tate. Besides tourists, Tate also hosts botanists, geologists, biologists and other scientists, because of the unique ecology of the Sabine area. He said when a skeleton was brought up by Bridge City's Robert Vail several years ago, he had scientists that came to study the area and found locations occupied by Atakapa Indians, nomadic tribes which are rumored to have been cannibals.

Tate not only promotes water activities, but also promotes other attractions in Orange County. He has a brochure rack in the ticket office and always invites people to explore other area sites.

"My boat will hold half a bus. While I take those on the tour, the rest visit other local places such as Shangri La and the Art

Museum. Then they all eat together in a local restaurant." The groups then switch and the other half go on the swamp tour.

Tate says the best time for gators is when it is cooler, but not cold. October is prime time for swamp cruises. He also said there has been growth in the gator population since TS Harvey, so there are gator encounters every trip.

If you are ready for your tour of the swamp call 409-883-0856 to reserve your spot for daytime or the special night tours or visit <http://www.swampandrivertours.com>

Daytime tour tickets are \$39.00 + tax for 13 and up and \$25.00+ tax for 12 and under. Babies are free.

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# October brings Scarecrow Festival back to Shangri La

## Staff Report For The Record

(ORANGE, TX) Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center is thrilled to invite the public to come experience the changing season at the 14th Annual Scarecrow Festival.

This beloved community event offers visitors an opportunity to stroll through the transformed autumnal gardens featuring flowering displays and thousands of pumpkins. The festival showcases all that nature has to offer, as well as the talent and creativity of community members who create unique scarecrow displays featuring recycled and repurposed materials. Scarecrow Festival begins October 8 and culminates with a day of family fun at Autumn Fair on October 26. Admission to the Scarecrow Festival is free of charge.

This season will feature more than 60 unique scarecrow exhibits that represent local businesses, schools, churches and other community organizations. In keeping with Shangri La's mission that encourages others to "Be Kind to Your World," scarecrow exhibits are always innovative, inspiring and environmentally friendly. The festival affords these organizations an opportunity to gain recognition with Shangri La visitors that travel from near and far. In 2023, 17,717 families, school groups and organizations enjoyed this free community event.

Scarecrow Festival is open to visitors Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the last entrance at 4:30 p.m.



Other fall festivities occurring throughout Scarecrow Festival include Sip and Stroll on Thursday, October 17, from 5 to 8 p.m., as well as Autumn Fair on Saturday, October 28, beginning at 10:30 a.m. and lasting throughout the day. Admission to Sip and Stroll and Autumn Fair is also free of charge.

"The changing season also brings about new offerings at this year's Scarecrow Festival. We are excited to unveil a new garden pathway, in addition to bringing the fall spirit to plantings at the new Petrified Forest," said Angie Mason, executive director of Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center. "We are also thrilled to welcome a talented band from Austin, Pendulum Hearts, to Sip and Stroll. This after-hours experience is an opportunity for visitors to enjoy spirits and food from Free

State Cellars Winery and the unique sound blend of Gypsy Jazz and Texas Swing from Pendulum Hearts," said Mason.

The grand finale of Scarecrow Festival is celebrated at Autumn Fair. This day of family fun includes multiple opportunities for hands-on activities including a scavenger hunt, Shangri La obstacle course, pumpkin decorating, hayrides, a pontoon boat ride on Adams Bayou, investigating some of the critters that call Shangri La home and much more.

"October provides so many phenomenal occasions for families to enjoy memory making opportunities in the gardens," said Mason. "It is our hope that families will make Scarecrow Festival a seasonal tradition for the years to come."

Shangri La Gardens and Nature Center is located at 2111 West Park Avenue in Orange, Texas. For more information about Scarecrow Festival, please visit shangrilagardens.org.

## Dockworkers' strike effects

From Page 2A

gas will be fine, but chemicals, there could be some issues."

The strike would halt the transportation of anything that moves in a container, including fresh produce, auto parts, manufactured components and, most crucially for Houston's export economy, plastic resins, Thompson said.

Port Houston is the nation's leader in resin exports, making up about 59% of the United States' total market.

The last time longshoremen went on strike was in 1977, for 45 days.

Each day of a longshoremen strike would require between four to six days of catchup work to get operations back on track, Kidd said. That means a two-week-long strike could back up port operations across the country into 2025.

Impacts would not be felt immediately because importers and exporters have been aware of the strike possibility for much of the year, Thompson said.

National retailers have been importing products into the country for back-to-school and the holiday season earlier than previous years in an effort to prepare for the strike, according to the National Retail Federation.

This year, Port Houston surpassed the 2 million Twenty Foot Equivalent Unit — the standard measure for cargo containers — earlier than ever. The first six months of the year saw a 13% increase in imports over the first six months of 2023, according to Port Houston.

That early preparation should mitigate

some consumer cost increases associated with a supply chain backlog, but it is unclear how long that buffer will last, Thompson said.

"A lot of people in the buy and trade side of moving containers around have had all year to get ready for this," the economist said. "I'm sure there's been some preparation, but I don't have any way to quantify that."

The port is encouraging companies to pick up their imports as soon as possible because anything in the yard at close of business on Monday will be unavailable until the strike ends.

Despite the potentially catastrophic consequences, Kidd said she thinks any longshoremen strike, if not avoided entirely, would be short-lived. It is more likely the parties will come to a resolution on their own, or with federal government intervention, she said.

Although the federal government has declined to intervene up to this point at the request of labor organizers, Kidd said the Biden administration would have an obligation to avert the level of international economic crisis that would be created by a prolonged strike.

"You can't destroy a national economy," Kidd said. "Given a prolonged strike, it would just be irresponsible if (Biden) didn't step in."

*This article first appeared on Houston Landing and is republished here under a Creative Commons license.*



## Orange Lions Club gets assist with PB&J food drive . . .





Orange Lions Club members got an assist from Orangefield High School students during the Peanut Butters and Jelly Food Drive. The students set up shop with the Lions during last Friday night's homecoming football game. The teamwork paid off. Over 300-pounds of PB&J was collected.

## Place your order 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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# Bobcats, Mustangs win homecomings



Orangefield Bobcat quarterback Carson Gonzales romps downfield enroute to another touchdown in defeating Hardin 59-0 on homecoming night.  
RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland



Natalie Black leads the motorcade around the stadium after being crowned Orangefield High School Homecoming Queen at halftime on Friday. The Bobcats smashed Hardin 59-0.  
RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland



A pack of Bobcat defenders swarms a Hardin-Jefferson ball carrier. On the tackle is Zach Morrow (10) assisted by Orangefield teammates.  
RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland



Orangefield's Kyler Green leaves behind a trail of Hardin defenders as the Bobcats pounce to a 59-0 homecoming victory.  
RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland

**TOMMY MANN JR.**  
For The Record

The fifth week of high school football is in the record books as our four primary Orange County football squads chalked up big wins Friday evening.

Below is a recap of all the action with photos:

**LC-M beats Pirates**

The Little Cypress-Mauriceville Battlin' Bears came away with a huge win to open District 10-4A Division 1 play this past Friday night as they held off Vidor, 16-12, at Pirates Stadium.

Vidor took the lead when quarterback Daigan Venable hit receiver Landon Jones in stride for a 46-yard touchdown and a 6-0 lead after the failed extra point attempt.

LC-M responded midway through the second quarter when the Bears made the most of a short field and only needed two plays to score. Starting at the Vidor 23-yard line, LC-M quarterback Braylon Lewis ran for 17-yards to the Pirates 6-yard line. From there running back J'Lynn Morris finished off the drive with a 6-yard scamper into the end zone and a 7-6 Bears lead.

Vidor (1-3, 0-1) opened the second-half with a long, time consuming drive. Running back Skyler Stankovich pounded the ball in from the 1-yard line to put Vidor back on top, 12-7. However, the Bears blocked the Pirates extra point kick and Jackson Struwe ran the kick back for two points for the Bears to cut the lead, 12-9.

The Bears (2-2, 1-0) scored again early in the fourth quarter when Lewis scored on a 19-yard touchdown run to give LC-M a 16-12 advantage.

The LC-M defense would stand strong following a Bears fumble deep in its own territory late in the game and came up with a takeaway to secure the 16-12 win.

**Orangefield roars to homecoming win**

The Orangefield Bobcats (3-2, 1-0) celebrated homecoming this past Friday evening with a dominating 59-0 victory over the previously undefeated Hardin Hornets to start the District 10-3A Division 1 campaign.

The Bobcats recovered the opening kickoff at the Hornets 1-yard line and quarterback Carson Gonzalez converted that into a 1-yard sneak for the touchdown for an early 7-0 lead, and the Bobcats never looked back.

Gonzalez and the Bobcats offense was firing on all cylinders, on the ground and in the air. Gonzalez finished the night with three rushing scores and two passing touchdowns, while running backs Mason Manning and Jose Lecea each had more than 100 yards on the ground and a rushing touchdown. Manning would add a touchdown reception, as did receiver Zach Morrow.

The Orangefield defense terrorized the Hornets (4-1, 0-1) offense all game long and held the previously high-powered Hardin offense to 104 total yards on the night. Morrow added a 60-yard punt return for a touchdown in the first half, and kicker Ty Butler booted a field goal in the second half.

SEE FOOTBALL RECAP  
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**OUTDOORS**

# Stay Safe, Hunt Smart: Archery Season Tips

Larry Johnson  
TPWD Release

AUSTIN – Texas’ 2024 archery-only hunting season for white-tailed deer, wild turkey and mule deer has begun and will run through Nov. 1. Before Texans start filling their freezers, Texas Game Wardens have some tips for hunters to keep in mind before they hit the woods, high plains or fields.

• **Safety is Paramount**

Hunters should always make safety a top priority for hunters, no matter the season.

While bows and crossbows are not firearms, they should still be treated like they are when an arrow is on the bow’s string or a bolt is cocked on a crossbow. Always keep them pointed in a safe direction and remember while handling that arrow broadheads are very sharp.

“The number one injury we see with archery hunters is people falling out of tree stands,” said Kurt Kelley, Wood County game warden. “I recommend anyone hunting off the ground wear a safety harness, use a safety line while climbing and maintain three points of contact.”

• **Licensing, Hunter Education and Archery-Specific Requirements**

In addition to having a valid hunting license, hunters must have an archery endorsement to hunt during the archery-only season. Hunters 17-years-old or older must have completed their hunter education certification, unless they have elected to participate in the one-time deferral or were born before Sept. 2, 1971. Hunters under 17 may hunt alone if they have completed their hunter education certification. If not, they and anyone using the deferral, must be accompanied by a licensed adult who is hunter education certified or exempt.

Hunters must have proof of a valid hunting license and hunter education while hunting.

• **Species Identification and Antler Restrictions**

If hunting in an area where mule deer and white-tail deer are present, species identification and knowledge of regulations for each is very important. Some Texas counties have antler restrictions while others don’t (13-inch spread or wider for white-tail deer; 20-inch spread or wider for mule deer). Hunters may also harvest antlerless white-tail deer during the archery-only season but may not harvest antlerless mule deer.

“Mule deer in some areas of the Panhandle offer hunters a pretty high percentage of success due to lack of pressure,” said Ryan Hunter, Potter and Randall County game warden. “With them being fairly common to see, I encourage hunters to do their research ahead of time. Know the bag limits, restrictions and be able to distinguish between the two deer species open for hunting.”

• **Public Land Hunting**

There are multiple types of public land available

ARCHERY SEASON Page 5B

## ‘The Lakes’ Fishing

• **Toledo Bend Fishing Report**

FAIR. Water normal stain; 82 degrees; 4.08 feet below pool. Bass fishing has improved, but forecast is showing lots cooler temperatures so this may slow the bite. Shallow fish coming on topwaters and chatterbaits, most of these fish coming on main lake points and in back of creeks. Mid range fish are coming on Texas rig and mid running crankbaits in 8-12 feet of water. There are a good number of fish schooling on some main lake ridges and half way back in creeks. Good numbers of deep fish, action is good just not that many good ones, most are small to 14 inches. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• **Sam Rayburn Fishing Reports**

FAIR. Water slightly stained; 85 degrees; 0.61 feet below pool. 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 off-shores flats chasing bait. When bass are schooling on the bottom cast a Carolina rig, dropshot, and shaky head. There is an abundance of shallow fish and this pattern should continue through the fall. Target the hay grass and flooded bushes early in the morning to catch bass chasing bait using a chatterbait, swimbait or frog. 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



Slot redfish, trout, and drum can be caught in Sabine Lake. RECORD PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

• **Sabine Lake**

GOOD. 85 degrees. With another hurricane in the forecast, focus fishing efforts inland on shell pads and oyster midlake, around Pleasure Island Point and ICW. Flounder should start moving out of the marshes staging on points during in or outgoing tides. Sabine Lake is good for redfish along points and drops keying on mullet with live shrimp under a popping cork, or ¼ ounce jig head watermelon red and chartreuse 3.5 inch tails. Trout can be caught drifting midlake over shell reefs when the sun rises. North Levy producing good catches of trout in the morning. Report by Captain Randy Foreman, Captain Randy’s Guide Service Sabine Lake.

• **Bolivar**

EXCELLENT. 83 degrees. It should be another week with excellent fishing! Water temperature is cooling a bit. The jetty has been producing limits of trout and big bull redfish. Small flounder are still visible on the low tides and bigger females are starting to move in for the fall. Tide changes and incoming tide fishing will be some of the best. The surf is producing limits of speckled trout, bull reds and black drum. The big 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. 86 degrees. Sylvan Beach area producing a few solid catches of speckled trout along shell and old pier pilings. Upper ship channel and spoil islands holding redfish, black drum, and a few trout, best on live shrimp. Gas wells in the middle of Trinity produce scattered catches of keeper trout, but there are many undersized fish in and around the well pads and under working birds. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Water clarity is decent. Trout are on some wells being caught in live shrimp and paddle tails using ¼ ounce jig heads or weedless. Redfish were feeding heavily before and after the harvest moon but starting to pick back up in the shallows being caught

pressure and a cool front on the way this week, 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. 87 degrees. Speckled trout are still good over deep shell, but at times lots of undersized trout are being caught, on live shrimp and soft plastics. Redfish bite is fair on shallow structure, along with black drum, sheepshead, and the occasional keeper trout. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• **West Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 87 degrees. Waders doing well on speckled trout and redfish throwing live natural baits. Flounder fishing at night improving with some big fish being taken by gigging. Those fishing from a boat near and around the structure with live shrimp catching black drum, sheepshead, speckled trout and redfish. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• **Freeport**

GOOD. 88 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, sheephead mangrove snapper and some

SEE FISHING Page 5B

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The LCM Battalion' Bears take down a Vidor Pirate ball carrier to win a hard fought 16-12 victory. On the tackle are Marek Loyd (91), Tucker Floyd (28), Eddie Winters-Willhite (40) and Jackson Smith (33).  
RECORD PHOTO: Kayleigh Ritchey



Shucking a block is big Bear Marek Loyd with his eyes on a Vidor ball carrier. The Bears defeated the Pirates 16-12.  
RECORD PHOTO:Kayleigh Ritchey



When the Bears win everyone wins and adding extra pep to the contest are the LCM Honey Bears. Above: Instructors Ms. Choate and Mrs. Lloyd enjoy the victory over Vidor.  
RECORD PHOTO: Kayleigh Ritchey



The Battlin' Bear defense closes a gap to take down an oncoming Vidor Pirate ball carrier. The Bears defeated the Pirates 16-12.  
RECORD PHOTO:Kayleigh Ritchey

# Calling for art student entries in Wildlife Forever's Fish Art Contest

Staff Report  
For The Record

ATHENS – The Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center (TFFC) has opened the Texas division of Wildlife Forever's 2025 Fish Art Contest for entries.

The Fish Art Contest, accepting entries until Feb. 28, is part of an international conservation education program designed to foster youth interest in fish, fisheries and fishing.

"The Fish Art Contest does a tremendous job of exposing students across Texas to the wonders of fish and fisheries resources through the nexus of art," said Tom Lang, TFFC director. "We always look forward to this time of year when we are once again amazed by the outstanding work and artistic interpretations of these young Texans."

Participants must submit a completed entry form and an original illustration of a wild fish found in Texas. Applicants in grades 4-12 are also required to submit a one-page creative writing piece. Once the entrance form is submitted, applicants must mail their artwork to TFFC, 5550 FM 2495, Athens, TX, 75752. The physical artwork must have a landscape orientation between 8X10 inches and 9X12 inches and be postmarked no later than Feb. 28.

The Texas Fish Art Contest's new category this year is the Special Species Award, which will showcase a focused species or set of species each year. One winner will be chosen from all entries and spotlighted at the TFFC. Students must correctly label their artwork and be identifiable as the correct focus species, but do not need to submit additional paperwork for consideration.

For the 2024-2025 contest year, the focus species



Mia Macias' winning entry last year in the Wildlife Forever's 2024 Fish Art Contest. The Black Crappie competition was held in the grade 10-12 division.

is the Guadalupe Bass, the state fish of Texas.

This year's award honors Shirley Watson and her third-grade class at Decatur Elementary School, which, in 1989, realized Texas had no official state fish. They traveled to Austin and testified in front of lawmakers about why a fish found "only in Texas" was the right fish for the job and their efforts paid off. Find out more about the state

fish and how the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is working to restore this Texas icon to its native range.

fish and how the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is working to restore this Texas icon to its native range.

Texas winners are recognized in the Texas Fish Art calendar, win scholarships, are featured in TPWD's Fish Art Contest Flickr album and invited to a family fishing celebration to recognize their achievements.

Additionally, winners will earn automatic entry to Wildlife Forever's national contest. Texas students may choose to enter national specialty awards with fish not found in Texas, however, they will not be eligible for Texas state

FISH ART Page 4B

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# How to brew the perfect cup of coffee every time

**Laura Muntean**  
Texas A&M AgriLife

A perfect cup of coffee starts at the source — the coffee farms where it's grown.

Eric Brenner, Texas A&M AgriLife Center for Coffee Research and Education assistant director, Bryan-College Station, has some useful tips on how to brew a truly good cup of coffee and what purchasing good coffee really means for you and the farmers who grow the beans.

## Pick the best coffee beans: Specialty coffee

Start with quality coffee. The best quality beans are labeled as "specialty coffee" and "100% Arabica beans." There are 10 cupping attributes, but a good starting point is to focus on these five: flavor, aroma, sweetness, body and acidity.

Specialty coffee is carefully graded and sorted before roasting, ensuring it has little to no defects like fungus, insect damage or irregularities that will affect the quality of the cup.

When buying coffee, it's best to choose specialty single-origin coffee. Look for labels that provide details

like the altitude, the processing method — whether natural, honey or washed, the country and region of origin, and variety. Avoid dark, oily beans; they should be brown and almost dry to the touch.

## Choose the right roast

Selecting the right roast level is crucial for highlighting the coffee's unique characteristics. Light and medium roasts preserve the nuanced flavors influenced by factors such as soil, location, environment, processing methods, varieties and ecosystems. These allow the distinct qualities of the coffee to shine through. In contrast, dark roasts often overshadow these characteristics, introducing more dominant burnt and ashy notes that can mask the coffee's original flavors.

## Why grinding matters

Mastering the art of grinding coffee can greatly enhance your coffee experience, allowing you to tailor each cup to your taste preferences and brewing method.

For example, a coarse grind with larger, chunky particles is ideal for French



A great way to start your perfect cup of coffee is to reach for a specialty coffee or label that reads "100% Arabica beans." (Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife)

press and cold brew, which involve longer brewing times.

A medium grind, like granulated sugar, suits standard drip coffee makers and some pour-over devices, ensuring a clean and well-extracted cup.

A fine grind, with a texture like table salt, is needed for espresso machines and Moka pots, as it allows the rapid extraction required for a rich, intense flavor.

An extra-fine grind, almost like flour, is used for Turkish coffee, which produces a strong, thick coffee traditionally served unfiltered.

tered.

## Brewing methods

The "best" brewing method depends on personal preference. Each method creates a distinct flavor profile due to varying extraction rates. Each brewing technique extracts coffee soluble in unique ways, leading to a diverse range of flavors:

- Pour-over: Provides precise control over extraction, resulting in a clean, nuanced cup that highlights specific flavors of the coffee.
- French press: Extracts more oils and fine particles,

producing a fuller-bodied and often more robust flavor.

• Aeropress: Offers flexibility to adjust brewing parameters, which can yield a range of flavors from a clean cup to a rich, espresso-like profile. Aeropress is a great option to take on the road.

• Drip coffee maker: Typically extracts coffee at a moderate rate, producing a balanced flavor that might lack the depth or complexity found in other methods.

• Espresso machine: Extracts coffee quickly under high pressure, resulting in a concentrated, intense flavor.

• Cold brew: Employs a long extraction time to produce a smooth, less acidic coffee, making it ideal for iced beverages.

## Good water is key

Brewing with high-quality water is essential to good coffee.

Tap water can be poor quality and contain total dissolved solids as well as chlorination that can hurt the flavor. On the other hand, distilled or reverse osmosis water can lack

minerals that can enhance the flavor of your coffee.

Brenner suggests using filtered or bottled water and possibly adding coffee-specific minerals to distilled water to significantly improve your coffee's flavor.

And when heating your water, avoid exceeding the boiling point, as water that is too hot can over-extract the coffee, resulting in a bitter taste.

## Brenner's coffee recipe

The right amount of coffee and water for brewing is all about the ratios. Just like in any cooking recipe, Brenner said coffee requires a recipe. Most consumers think of coffee in terms of scoops per cup, but a more precise approach uses coffee-to-water ratios measured by weight with a kitchen scale.

For every gram of coffee, use between 13-20 grams, or about a half ounce, of water. For example, with a 1:15 ratio, if you use 30 grams of coffee, you need 450 grams of water or 1 and a half ounces of coffee to about 16 ounces of water.

## Fish Art Contest From Page 3B

awards due to the one entry per student limit.

"We have a unique opportunity to celebrate the talents of our Texas students, and the beauty of our diverse fish found in Texas," said Kate Barkalow, Education and Interpretation Coordinator at TFFC. "In doing so, we also recognize the amazing efforts of our teachers and biologists who support them. To complete their piece of art, students research their fish, its habitat and conservation efforts being made to protect the species, forging a connection

between the student and fish."

Educators who wish to have their students enter the 2025 contest can find entry forms, rules, guidelines and more online. A lesson plan offers interdisciplinary curriculum including lessons and activities, a species identification section profiling each state fish, a glossary and student worksheets.

The Fish Art Contest is sponsored by Wildlife Forever, Bass Pro Shops, Rapala, U.S. Forest Service, Wonders of Wildlife, Guy

Harvey Ocean Foundation, National Fish Habitat Partnership, U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management, Association of Fish and Wildlife Agen-

cies, Adventure Keen, International Game and Fish Association, REPYOUR-WATER and Western Native Trout Initiative.

Located in White Bear Lake, Minn., Wildlife Forever is a nonprofit multi-species organization.

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*Donna Alford*  
Donna Alford  
Orange County Elections Administrator

AVISO PUBLICO DE PROBAR EL EQUIPO PARA TABULAR AUTOMATICAMENTE  
Por lo presente se da aviso que el equipo para tabular automáticamente que se usará en la Elección General que se llevará a cabo el 5 de noviembre de 2024 se probará el 4 de octubre de 2024 a las 9:00 pm en 206 Border Street, Orange, TX 77630 para determinar si el equipo contará con exactitud los votos para todos los puestos oficiales y sobre todos los proyectos de ley.

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Vidor running back Skylar Stankovich (28) meets Bears defender Jonah Fuller (22) head-on during an exciting second-half this past Friday, as LC-M defeated the Pirates, 16-12, for an all-important district win. **RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.**



LC-M running back J'Lynn Morris (7) runs for the right corner of the end zone and a 6-yard touchdown to give the Bears a 7-6 lead over Vidor at halftime. **RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.**

## Archery deer season tips

From Page 2B

for archery hunters. The managing authority for each property sets specific requirements, so be aware of those before going hunting.

To hunt on property owned or leased by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), an Annual Public Hunting Permit is required in addition to standard licensing requirements.

Those hunting on TPWD property are required to wear at least 400 square inches of hunter orange material, including orange headwear and at least 144 square inches appearing on both chest and back during daylight hours. Even if hunter orange is not required to hunt other public property, it can be beneficial to wear as other seasons can run concurrent with archery season and additional hunters can be in the woods.

Hunters should also be aware of other regulations surrounding baiting, hunt-

ing blinds, alcohol consumption and more.

### Archery-Only Counties and County-Specific Ordinances

Hunters need to know which county they are hunting in and follow all state, local and federal regulations.

Texas has four archery-only counties: Collin, Dallas, Grayson and Rockwall. These counties allow crossbows to be used during the general white-tailed deer season, Nov. 2 — Jan. 5, but hunters may only use a compound, recurve or longbow during the archery-only season.

Hunters should also keep in mind that county and city municipalities may set their own ordinances such as no archery hunting within city limits or on property smaller than 10 acres.

"Regulations are updated from time to time and can

sometimes be complex, especially in counties with unique requirements," said Daron Blackerby, Grayson County game warden. "If there's anything you're unclear on after reviewing the regulations in the Texas Outdoor Annual, call the game warden for the county you will be hunting in. We're here to help."

### Preparation and Equipment Maintenance

It's a good idea to carry basic survival gear like a first-aid kit, tourniquet, GPS, compass, zip ties, rain gear and enough water and food to get you through a day or two in case you get lost.

Know your equipment and practice with it regularly. Wardens recommend keeping bows in good working order and wearing proper safety equipment like arm guards.

"Don't buy a new bow at

the beginning of September and then hunt with it open morning," said Randy Stovall, Nacogdoches County game warden. "Practicing with it regularly will not only improve accuracy but can also help prevent accidents."

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## Football recap

From Page 1B

### Mustangs run by Chargers

The West Orange-Stark Mustangs took care of business on Friday night to claim a 34-14 homecoming win over the visiting Fort Bend Crawford Chargers at Dan R. Hooks Stadium.

The Mustangs running game dominated the Chargers from the start as the WO-S offense churned up more than 450 yards of total offense on the night. Quarterback Marcus Turner Jr. passed for 112 yards on 10 completions and a touchdown, while rushing for 134 yards. Running back Khelvy Jefferson rushed for 190 yards and three scores on the night.

West Orange-Stark (4-1) will be on a bye this Friday ahead of opening District 9-4A Division 2 play against the Jasper Bulldogs (2-3) on Friday, Oct. 10 in Jasper. The Mustangs have become quite the road warriors, as

the team will be looking for its sixth consecutive regular season victory away from Dan R. Hooks Stadium.

### Cardinals stay undefeated

The Cardinals continue to take care of business and this past Friday was no different as Bridge City defeated the Lumberton Raiders, the 2023 District 10-4A Division I champs, 28-7, in Lumberton.

Bridge City (4-0, 1-0) and Lumberton slugged it out for a half, but the Cards, led by quarterback Hutch Bearden, pulled away in the second half. Bearden powered the offense to more than 280 yards for the game and helped expand the Cardinals 14-7 halftime lead into a 28-7 victory.

The high-flying Cardinals look to keep the momentum rolling as they host Vidor this Friday.

## Week 6 Schedule

**Hardin-Jefferson at LC-M**  
**Vidor at Bridge City**  
**Orangefield at Anahuac**  
**Deweyville at Colmesneil (WO-S bye)**

## Week 5 Results

**Bridge City 28 Lumberton 7**  
**Orangefield 59 Hardin 0**  
**LC-M 16 Vidor 12**  
**WO-S 34 Fort Bend Crawford 14**  
**Deweyville 27 West Sabine 18**

**PN-G 62 Lake Creek 56**  
**PA Memorial 34 Bmt United 0**  
**Nederland 63 Splendora 12**  
**Hamshire-Fannett 34 Stafford 14**  
**Huffman-Hargrave 49 Liberty 28**  
**Hardin-Jefferson 33 Livingston 24**  
**Crockett 33 Tarkington 21**  
**Hitchcock 42 Silsbee 10**  
**Carthage 58 Jasper 14**  
**Anahuac 49 Kirbyville 6**  
**East Chambers 34 Buna 6**  
**New Waverly 31 Warren 0**  
**Woodville 53 Trinity 6**  
**Newton 62 Anderson-Shiro 7**  
**Evadale 34 Acadian Christian 6**  
**Sabine Pass 27 Colmesneil 8**  
**West Hardin 40 Hull-Daiset-**



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# Marital Conflict for New Wives

**Courtney Reissig**  
**Guest Contributor**  
**desiringGod.org**

The early months and years of marriage are a time of significant change. Marriage involves at least one or both people moving to join as husband and wife under one roof. A young wife changes her name to show she now belongs to her husband as the two form a new family. Both the new husband and new wife are stepping into new callings they have never had before! With all the change and transition, it shouldn't surprise us when conflicts, disagreements, or misunderstandings arise.

If you're a young woman preparing for marriage, you need not fret that marital conflict will spoil the first years, nor should you assume that you and your husband won't deal with any bumps or tense times. Rather, you can prepare to be the kind of wife who handles conflicts with maturity, charity, and inner peace. Which is to say, you can prepare to be a Christian wife.

## He's Not You

The profound mystery of marriage is that two become one — a man and a woman, distinct and different, joined together in a one-flesh union. Yet in that bodily joining, the two minds do not meld into one. You will think about things much the way you've always thought about them; so will

your new husband. Over lots of time and with lots of effort, you will begin to think together — to think alongside your husband, to let him know how your thoughts are developing, and also to understand and appreciate that he will always think differently than you do, no matter how well you both may communicate. This is one grand blessing of marriage: he's not you!

## Quick to Hear, Slow to Speak

Because of these natural and good differences of frame and mindset, a new wife can prepare for moments of disagreement by cultivating patience when her husband's opinion or decision doesn't make immediate sense to her. Remember, he's not you. He may have many good reasons for how he thinks, talks, acts, and leads. Perhaps he sees an angle you don't see; perhaps he has a priority you haven't considered.

James says, "Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God" (James 1:19-20). If I could give you one very important piece of premarital advice, it would be this: slow down and listen before you answer or react.

I would guess that the sin for which I've most regular-



ly needed to ask forgiveness in marriage is making a snap judgment over some innocuous (or even good) way that my husband was thinking or leading. I would mistake and challenge his choice or initiative because I thought my way of thinking was right and normal, and his way was abnormal and therefore wrong. I was routinely caught off guard by just how different we are.

Now, after 21 years of God's helping me to slow down and listen, I can say that I am more thankful than ever that my husband's frame and mindset are different from mine. It is a gift from God to be married to a godly man, who is not me. Don't try to make your husband be like you or like your

closest girlfriends. Praise God for the differences, and practice patience as you grow in appreciation for him.

## Whispers Singe Marriage

Proverbs 26:20 says, "For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases." This bit of God-breathed wisdom pictures quarrels as a fire. And what is the fuel for the quarrel-fire? A whisperer — that is, one who shares information or secrets or private matters with someone who shouldn't know them.

A young wife must realize, from the get-go, that

her marriage is a sacred trust. The Golden Rule can go a long way in helping us grasp what we ought, and ought not, to share with others: Would I want my husband to share [blank] about me? As Proverbs 31:11-12 tells us, a husband's heart trusts his godly wife. As he confides in her, she does not harm him but does him good all his days.

In the early years of our marriage, I realized that some women wanted to turn conversations into complaining about their husbands. In the process, they almost relished the misery of others alongside their own. Others simply grasped to know more than they ought to know about the intimate details of another's married life.

What might not be obvious to you yet is that joining in this sort of indiscrete "whispering" can cause conflict in your marriage. When you complain about your husband to friends or overshare the intimate details of your life together, you can expect that your regard for and treatment of your husband will begin to lack honor and respect. And don't be surprised when the things you "whispered" about him make their way to his ears.

Decide now not to engage in that sort of talk. Be the kind of wife whom your husband can trust in every way. If there is some private matter with which you and your husband need outside help, go to a trusted pastor or godly couple for guidance. But don't denigrate the sacred bond of trust that you have with your

husband through indiscretion or gossip.

## Disagreeing with Submission

Even when we avoid hasty speech and practice discretion, and even when our husband is loving us as Christ loved the church, legitimate disagreements will still, at times, arise. When they do, the overarching posture of the wife will often determine whether her input is a welcome counterpoint for consideration or a difficult hurdle to get past.

When a trustworthy wife pursues godliness, seeks good for her husband, and submits to him, a Christian husband will not balk or be threatened by her sincere (and respectfully offered) disagreement. You may even be surprised at how eager he is to gather your input and how seriously he takes it, even though he isn't bound by it (nor would you want him to be!). You want him to be a man who fears God and acts as one who will give an account for the way he led his wife and family.

When a young wife looks to "the holy women who hoped in God," such as Sarah — who submitted to Abraham, even "calling him lord" — she can have inner peace through marital disagreements (1 Peter 3:5-6). Why? Because, as Peter tells us, her hope is in God, not in her desired outcome or in her husband's ability to make the perfect decision. When a young wife's hope is in God, she can trust his work in the heart of her husband and in herself.

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