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The Community News for Orange, Texas

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County Record

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Week of Wednesday, December 28, 2022

New county officials to take oaths on Sunday

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

New Year's Day celebrations aren't only for a new year. For Orange County elected officials, New Year's Day is also a time for taking the oath of office for a new term.

This year, the oath of office ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday in Judge Courtney Arkeen's 128th State District Court, the largest room in the courthouse complex. It is traditional for friends and families of the officials to attend, with cake, coffee, and punch.

This year, Orange County will have two new people taking public office. Anne Reed will become new district clerk after longtime incumbent Vickie Edgerly retired. In addition, Chris Sowell will take the oath to become the new Precinct 2 county commissioner. He is replacing Theresa Adams Beauchamp, who served one term and then retired.

Incumbents taking a new oath to be seated for new terms include County Judge John Gothia and



Incoming Precinct 2 county commissioner Chris Sowell

Precinct 4 Commissioner Robert Viator. Other incumbents will be County Court-at-Law Judge Mandi White-Rogers, County Clerk Brandy Robertson, and County Treasurer Christy Khouri.

All four precinct justices of the peace will begin new terms. They are Hershel Stagner Jr. in Precinct 1, Chad Jenkins in Precinct 2, Joy DuBose-Simonton in Precinct 3, and Rodney Price in Precinct 4. Price is the longest-serving JP in the county.

The public is invited to attend the oath of office ceremony.

Bridge City, county show strong sales tax returns

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Bridge City merchants had strong sales in October as sales tax returns surged more than 18 percent compared to the year before. Orange County and the cities of Pinehurst and West Orange also had strong increases.

The sales tax incomes to cities and county were reported by the Texas Comptroller's Office. The office sends out the payments to the entities each month for sales two months earlier.

Bridge City, with a 1.5 percent sales tax, received \$173,654 for the month, compared to \$146,716 in 2021, an increase of 18.36 percent. The city ended the year with a total of \$2.23 million, up from \$2.08 million the year before.

Pinehurst has a 1.5 percent sales tax.

SALES TAX Page 3A

fore, an increase of 7.08 percent.

Orange County, which has a 0.5 percent sales tax, collected \$599,185 for the month, an increase of 13.14 percent from the \$529,593 collected the same month last year. The county for the year received \$7.29 million, an 11.74 percent increase from \$2.52 million in 2021.

The city of Orange has a 1.5 percent sales tax and dropped slightly for the month of October with \$460,614 compared to \$474,758 for October 2021, a decrease of 2.97 percent. However, the city ended the year up 5.94 percent from last year with \$7.236 million compared to \$6.83 million the year before.

Pinehurst has a 1.5 percent sales tax.

KJ Miller concludes colossal college career

DAN PERRINE
For The Record

Dedicated to a motto of heart over height the outstanding college football career for KJ Miller from Orange has come to an end. KJ stands at just 5-7 but his skills and effort on the field have garnered him high recognition and earned him a chance to reach the highest level of his sport with a possible position in the National Football League.

Miller and the Mary Hardin-Baylor Crusaders from Belton, Texas completed their football season on December 10 losing in the NCAA Division III playoffs to the undefeated and eventual national champion North Central College Cardinals.

It was another sensational year for Miller who was named a First Team Selection to the Associated Press Division III All-American Team. Miller helped the Crusaders go 12-2 on their season before falling to North Central College in the semifinals of the playoffs. The Crusaders won the Division III national championship in 2021 defeating North Central College in the finals.

During the just concluded football season Miller caught 74 passes for 1,088 yards resulting in 12 touchdowns while also running the ball for two more scores. KJ has set the Mary Hardin-Baylor record with 221 career receptions, the single season



KJ Miller is the all-time NCAA leader in punt return yardage with over 2,000 yards and he returned 7 for touchdowns.

record with 78 catches during the 2021 season, and on November 5, 2021 he caught 12 passes against Howard Payne for the single game record at the school.

Miller actually holds the NCAA record for punt re-

turn yardage in a college career with over two thousand yards which includes 295 yards from his one year at East Texas Baptist and 1,707 yards for Mary Hardin-Baylor. In his career as a Crusader KJ averaged a phenomenal 21.6 yards a return with six going for touchdowns. He also had another punt return for a score while at East Texas Baptist.

Up next for Miller is the College Grid Iron Showcase on January 6-8 in Fort Worth, Texas. This event features approximately one hundred scouts from professional football teams looking to evaluate college prospects as possible future players in the pros.

KJ MILLER Page 3A

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SEE OUR AD PAGE 1 SECTION B

Some history repeats From Page 1

20th Street between Burton Avenue and Park Avenue.

The building was remodeled to house polio patients and included the dreaded "iron lung," a medical machine that helped paralyzed polio patients breath. At the height of the epidemic, the polio ward had 30 patients.

Not only was polio a problem, a rabies outbreak hit Vidor. The newspaper reported that during the summer 25 people in Vidor were bitten by rabid animals and had to be treated.

Gulf States Utilities raised rates, but without the approval of the Orange

City Council. The newspaper blamed "city fathers" for using an "antiquated 1914" city charter that allowed the company to do that.

The city was also considering how to handle sewage. The city, though, didn't own the water service. Gulf States Utilities did. It was a hold back to the days of the Orange Ice and Water Company, owned by H.J. Lutcher Stark, which ended up consolidating with Gulf States Utilities decades earlier.

Speaking of Lutcher Stark, he gave the dedication address at the new

Jones Elementary School opening and talked in public about consolidation of school districts. However, another 15 years went by before the Orange Independent School District was added to the West Orange and Cove districts, which had merged earlier.

General Dwight D. Eisenhower ran as a Republican in 1952 and got record amount of votes in Orange County for a Republican. He still lost the county, though he carried the state. Local Republicans were so happy they announced they would be having Republi-

can candidates on the local ballots.

That didn't work out as planned. It took until the late 1990s for the Republicans to win a JP seat and then in 2010, a Republican won a county commissioner seat. By 2022, all county officials were Republican and no Democrats ran for local offices.

The newspaper pointed out it was a good year for women running for office as a woman won a seat on the Orange school board. However, Mrs. Donald D. Lee was not lucky in being herself. The newspaper referred to her by her husband's name.

One thing Orange County hasn't seen in almost a decade is a "First Baby of the Year." The old Baptist Hospital in Orange stopped delivering babies in 2012, and then closed in 2015. But there's good news in 2022 as ground was broken on a new medical center with emergency room and a few in-patient rooms. No word on whether babies will be delivered there.

Back in the 1950s, the "First Baby" was celebrated across town and businesses showered the new baby and mother with gifts. The daily Orange Leader in 1953 was an afternoon paper and was able to report the first baby was born at 1 a.m. January 1 at the City Hospital.

Tommy Joe Shelton Jr. was the first baby born in Orange County in 1953 and weighed a healthy 8 pounds and 9 ounces. His parents were Mr. and Mrs. T.J. Shelton Sr.

Gifts for mom and baby

included a ride home in a "custom-built, luxury ambulance" from Claybar Funeral Home. First National Bank opened an account with \$5 in the baby's name. The agreement came with "twinsurance," meaning if mom had twins, two accounts would be open.

Furniture stores were all over downtown and competed for nice gifts. Conn's Furniture on Front gave a clothes hamper. Dallas-Beadle, also on Front, gave a new high chair, while Case & McGee on Main

gave a bassinet.

Goldfine's Shoe Store on

Fifth promised baby to fit the baby with his first pair of shoes while Green's department store, also on Fifth, gave a set of yellow crib sheets, appropriate for girl or boy.

Staudt's Jewelry in the Holland Hotel on Fifth Street gave a sterling silver baby fork and spoon. Sterling was popular as baby gifts because Gem Jewelry on Fifth presented a set of sterling silver diaper pins.

SEVENTY Page 3A

A GOOD IDEA

Sen. Carl Parker For The Record

During my tenure in the Legislature I had the rule that I would do what was possible. There are many things possible to deal with environment and the continued use of fossil fuels. For the life of me, I cannot understand why no one is not sitting down at the table and recognizing this fact. The stores of oil and gas and other resources in the ground will eventually run out whether it is 100 years or 200 years. Likewise, the place to stash our garbage and trash is getting in short supply. If you don't believe this, talk to a contractor attempting to locate a proper dump. It seems it would make good sense to me if environmentalists would sit down with those who want to promote the use of fossil fuels and discuss ways to make both our world-wide trash heap last longer as well as using fossil fuels in the least harmful way to us all.

There is plenty we can do that would be beneficial to all, including those who profit from waste and those who profit from the use of fuels. A good example is the fact that we have hundreds of unused oil and gas wells that are represented by vacant holes in the ground, particularly in west Texas.

A good beginning place would be with our federal and state agencies designed to protect the environment. Environmental



**Former State Senator
Carl Parker**

Carl Parker is a 1958 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. Elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1962 and the Senate in 1976.

rules should be reasonable, recognize that we will be dependent on fossil fuels for years into the future and try to calculate those measures that would cause production and use of these fuels in the safest way possible. Likewise, in the effort to preserve our landfills and other aspects to use of the earth a good starting place would be to promote recycling and require production of items that could be easily recycled and contain some value after their initial use.

While in the Legislature I considered myself an environmentalist, but I too had a difficult time winding my way through measures that would be fair and accomplish both ends of efficient use of fuels and the efficient use of places to store our waste. The idea seemed great at the time in that it would com-

bine five different agencies into one with greater power to protect the environment while making good decisions about how to regulate permitting and the fair use of fossil fuels. My argument at the time was that instead of having to go to five different agencies for permitting and demonstrating that whatever project was on the table would be done in the most efficient and least harmful way available you could accomplish everything by going to only one. I am beginning to feel like the scientist Frankenstein. It seems from complaints I have received in the past few years that all I have done is lengthen the process and gotten very little help as to the efficient preservation and safe use of fossil fuels.

I am now reduced to my original idea that we elect the TCEQ with the Railroad Commission, an agency that regulates electric power. There is no denying they all play a part in what we pay when we turn the oven on in our homes. Letting the people have a say and who it is who makes the rules for use in permitting these activities would certainly get the attention of politicians in Texas. It is time that we sat at the table apart from our governor and lieutenant governor and particularly our attorney general and figure out the best way to accomplish the ends described in this article.

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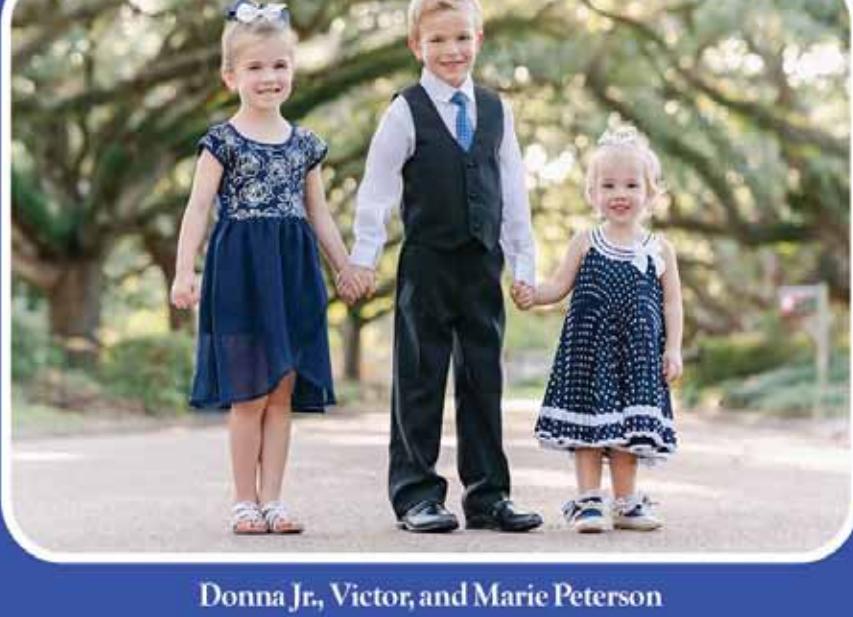
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Court ends year with Beauchamp present

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Orange County Commissioners Court ended 2022 with a meeting that was short in length and sweet on compliments.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Theresa Adams Beauchamp was able to attend her last meeting before her term expires on Saturday at midnight. Her husband drove her to the administration building and she used a walker to slowly make it down the long hallway to the commissioners meeting room.

Two weeks earlier, she had been in a wheelchair after falling and breaking a hip. She said the walker is good progress.

County Judge John Gothia joked that he had not expected to see her and he delayed a South Texas hunting trip to make sure the court would have a quorum for the meeting because Precinct 1 Commissioner Johnny Trahan had scheduled to be out of town. The court has five members and needs at least three to conduct business.

Adams drew more praise for her work on the court. "People really don't know what you give when you do this job," Judge Gothia said. "You've done a good job."

The county is celebrating a new \$8.5 billion

Chevron Phillips-QatarEnergy chemical plant coming, Gothia told Beauchamp she was "a big part of this" as the county negotiated tax abatement terms to seal the agreement with the corporation.

Commissioners took no action on an agreement to renew the "Slice of Orange" app program for smart computer devices. The app is a way for local entities to publicize events and notices. Judge Gothia said the county budgeted for \$4,999 this year to continue the app. He said it is used a lot by the Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce and the county uses it to put out emergency notices.

"It's another way to let citizens know what's going on," including emergency notifications, Judge Gothia said.

However, commissioners wanted to know more information about how many people are using it. Precinct 4 Commissioner Robert Viator, who represents the Vidor area, said he doesn't know if many people use it.

Precinct 3 Commissioner Kirk Roccaforte said even though the app doesn't cost much, the county shouldn't waste money if something is not used.

The court will have a representative of the app



Theresa Beauchamp

company attend and give statistics on how many people are using the app and whether it is worth the expense.

The court approved a payment of nearly \$170,000 to R.B. Everett Co. for a wheel loader for the Road and Bridge Department, along with

\$3,450 to Claybar Funeral Home for indigent funeral expenses, and \$2,300 to Memorial Funeral Home for indigent funeral expenses. Another bill was \$46,504 from the Disaster Fund to pay for an elevation project.

The court agreed to let Precinct 2 Justice of the Peace Chad Jenkins buy four new Dell OptiPlex 7000 computers. Judge Gothia said the computers are included in the office's current budget.

Buying bonds to cover several officials was part of the agenda. The bonds are a type of insurance for public officials and their actions. The court

recently hired Michelle Carroll as the new purchasing agent for the county and set a bond to be set at \$5,000.

For the elected officials coming into new terms, the court agreed to a \$3,000 bond for Judge Gothia and County Court-at-Law Judge Mandi White-Rogers. Courtroom judges in Orange County, which include White-Rogers, also carry separate insurance policies and do not need a large bond.

The bonds for County Clerk Brandy Roberts and District Clerk Anne Reed were set for \$100,000 each, while the bond for County Treasurer Kristy Khouri was agreed at \$250,000.

Bonds for the four justices of the peace will be \$3,000 each. They are Hershel Stagner Jr., Precinct 1; Chad Jenkins, Precinct 2; Joy DuBose-Simonton, Precinct 3; and Rodney Price, Precinct 4.

In other business, the court approved the direct deposit of \$599,184.59 for the sales tax payment covering the month of October.

The county ended the month with pledge security collateral of a total \$43.24 million. Of that, \$26.57 million is at Wells Fargo Bank and \$16.6 million is at First Financial Bank.

Sales tax returns strong

From Page 1

cent sales tax and showed a large jump in sales for October with \$55,026 compared to \$44,729 last year, an increase of 23 percent.

Vidor with a 1.5 percent sales tax had a small increase in sales for the month, but was stagnant for the year. The city collected \$264,663 for the month of October compared to \$257,465 for October 2021, an increase of 2.79 percent. For the year, the city collected only about \$3,000 more than last year with \$3.54 million compared to \$3.55 million last year.

The city of West Orange has a 1.25 percent sales tax and collected \$111,909 for October, a 13.99 percent increase from the \$98,167 percent collected for October 2021. The city for the year had \$1.36 million, compared to \$1.33 million last year, a 2.07 percent increase.

Emergency Services District 3 is the only special district in the county with a sales tax. The district is the Little Cypress Fire and Rescue Department and has a 1.5 percent sales tax that was approved by voters more than a decade ago. The district received \$28,688 for the month, compared to \$14,196 for October last year. The district ended the year by collecting \$299,543 compared to \$257,991 last year, an increase of 16.1 percent.

KJ Miller college career

From Page 1

Meanwhile training and preparation for the College Grid Iron Showcase will occupy Miller's time. He will be working with trainer Aaron Garrett from Silsbee and is likewise working out in Belton.

KJ is a 2017 graduate of West Orange-Stark High School. Miller as a Mighty Mustang starred on two state championship football teams in 2015 and 2016. He was named to the All-District team in football and was a standout on the Mustangs' baseball and basketball teams as well.

With his eye and his heart on making it to the NFL Miller is working hard to achieve that goal. KJ is majoring in business at Mary Hardin-Baylor. He plans to give coaching a try when his playing days conclude.

Some history repeats

From Page 1

Fowler Jewelers, also on Fifth, gifted a teething ring with silver.

Piggly Wiggly store at Park and 16th Street donated a case of Pet canned milk and Weingarten's on Turret Street gave a case of Carnation canned milk. Paul's Pharmacy at 1006 Park Avenue gave a set of baby bottles.

But not everything was for baby. The new mother was treated to a \$25 permanent at Alice's Beauty Shop and a night gown from Franklin's on Fifth Street. Martin's Fashions gave her a new nursing bra. Henke & Pillot on Green Avenue gave the family \$5 in merchandise while Reliable Cleaners on Front gave \$5 in cleaning.

American Legion presents "Bringing in the New Year" on Saturday

The American Legion Post 49 presents "Blinging in the New Year" on Saturday, December 31 from 8:00 pm to 1 am at 108 Green Avenue in Orange. The event is a formal event but formal attire not mandatory and the entertainment will be provided by DJ Chevy. The cost is \$10 per person or \$15 a couple, if you want to reserve

a table for 6 there is an additional \$20 charge. There will be a cash bar, no outside alcohol allowed, an ATM on site, door prizes and a 50/50 drawing. All proceeds will go to the American Legion Post for building upgrades. For more info please contact Macie Johnson at 409-221-7253 or the American Legion at 409-886-1241.

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From the Creaux's Nest

2023 - ANOTHER YEAR ROLLS AROUND

Here's hoping you had a nice **Christmas**. I've been writing for many years and as the new year brings us to 2023, I'm just thankful that I had the opportunity. I'm very grateful to have enjoyed some success with a loyal base of readers. Over the years, we have recorded **Orange County** history that will live through the ages. That would not be possible without the advertisers who make it possible for us to have such a wide circulation. My hope is that more local advertisers will take advantage of our offer of **low cost advertising and large readership in two publications** and a very active website at therecordlive.com. We are the only locally owned print outlet that features a staff of professional writers who are also historians. Every week read about local folks and what's happening at home. Thanks for the many years of loyalty. Here's wishing you and yours a very healthy, successful and **Happy New Year**. ****I've got to get going. Please come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.

THE PASSING OF MARY BRYANT

I was sorry to learn of the passing of **Mary Bryant**, age 85. I had heard a rumor that she had died but could not find confirmation until after her service. She passed away December 10. Funeral service was held December 17, at her longtime church, First Baptist Church in Bridge City. Mary was a wonderful, kind lady I had known her and husband, Casey Bryant since the late 1950's. Casey and his brother Cecil were two of the first coaches at B.C.I.S.D. Casey remained a school employee until retirement. The Bryant's raised three boys, Kim, Billy and Matt, all good athletes. Matt was a longtime star place kicker in the NFL. They had one daughter Sherry Mulholland and several grandchildren. I always enjoyed visiting with Mary. She was down to earth and never had an unkind word to say. She and Casey, who were complete opposites, raised a great family. Our condolences.

TURNING BACK THE HAND OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2012

The new issue of **Las Sabinas**, the official publication of the **Orange County Historical Society** is out. This issue features **John Moses Hatton**, the Cormier family of Orangefield and a lot of other interesting facts. **** By the way, our friend **Phillip Welch**, a **Lunch Buncher** and **Granger Chevrolet**, PR man, celebrated his birthday Thursday, Dec. 20, age 54. ******Johnny Montagne** went off to the deer lease and got sick the first day, 100 miles from the nearest doctor. He toughed it out for a few days but never took his gun out and came back home empty handed. ****Dec. 31st is also a special day for **Roy and Ms. Phyl**. She's put up with him 58 years. *****Jerry and Barbara Childress** also mark their anniversary on Dec. 31. ******Judge Troy Johnson's** longtime court coordinator, **Toni Dyer**, is retiring Dec. 31. She began work at the county in 1987, 35 years ago. **Toni** says it breaks her heart to leave her "**Court House family**." Replacing her at **Judge Johnson's** court is **Diana Edwards**. ******Mark Anderson** and **Phillip Welch** were guest of **Jamie Harrison**, former **Bridge City School Superintendent** and now in the hierarchy covering all Texas high school sports. **Mark** and **Phillip** joined **Jamie** in his personal box for all nine state high school games at **Jerry Jones' country stadium**. Meanwhile, **Jamie** was on statewide television during the events. Of importance to local high school fans, **Navasota**, who beat WO-S in the playoffs, **won state 3-A Division II championship** with a 39-3 win over **Gilmer**. **** We say goodbye to **County Commissioner John Dubose** this week. In the over 50 years of watching commissioner's court, there has never been a commissioner who has done a better job. **He was dedicated, knowledgeable and concerned**.

20 Years Ago-2002

Laurence Winfree named "Citizen of the Year" by the **Greater Area Chamber of Commerce**. "An honor that is long over due," said **Chamber president Betty Harmon**. **Winfree** is considered a legend in **Orange County**. The **Winfree Community** was named for his father, **Will Winfree**, who pioneered the area. According to **J.B. Arrington**, **Laurence**, a longtime rancher, promoted and helped the **Junior Chamber** with the purchase of land to produce some of the finest **RCA** approved rodeos in **Texas**. "Several Hollywood and music stars participated in many rodeos right here in **Orange County**," **Arrington** said. **Winfree's** wife **Gladys** died of cancer in 1977 after being married 57 years. They had two children, **Lester "Buckshot" and Jeanette Winfree**. (**Buckshot** has since passed away as has **Laurence**). **** Newly elected officials to be sworn in to office New Year's Day. **Owen Burton**, who turns 60 in a few days, is the newly elected **County Commissioner of Pct. 3**. He defeated incumbent **Sue Bearden** for the post. Only his sec-

ond elected post, the Mauriceville businessman was on the **Orange County Drainage Dist. Board** 30 years ago. He gives credit to **Commissioners John Dubose and James Stringer**, along with newly elected **Pct. 4 Commissioner Beamon Minton** for preparing him for the post. "They took the time to show me around and educate me to the issues the county faces," **Burton** said. On returning recently from a state seminar he said, "I'm eager to go to work; and instead of rocking the boat, I plan to get an oar and row." **Burton** is a fiscal conservative Democrat. ******Roy Derry Dunn**, after a 33 year career in education, is leaving the **Little Cypress-Mauriceville School District** to become **Justice of the Peace in Pct. 2**. This week, he said goodbye to the students and the teachers he has worked with. He was **principal at LC-M High**. A resident of Mauriceville, he is the son of **Wilson "King" Dunn**, longtime **Port Master**. His uncle, **Gordon Dunn**, was a **County Commissioner**. **Dunn**, a conservative Democrat, in his first run for office defeated **Cimron Campbell**, the incumbent **J.P.** ****After working in the **J.P. office in Pct. 3** for 20 years, **Janice Menard**, ran to succeed her boss **Judge FL Edgerly**. **Menard** reflected on the past 20 years with **Edgerly** starting as a part time clerk and being promoted to chief clerk, "Not only experience in the **J.P. Court** but also life experiences has prepared me for the job." In 1990 she lost her daughter **Julie Traver** and her **husband Bobby**, who died at age 62 in 1999, while at the dinner table. Her brother **Patrick** was killed on FM 1442 in 1994, her youngest brother died in 1992, her oldest brother in 1976 and his two sons have died since. Of five siblings, **Janice only has one sister left**. Her father died at age 82. (Editor's Note: At the time of this writing, her mother was still alive and lived alone in the Cove, however since then she has passed away, also **Janice** and her sister **Millie** have died.) "One of the hardest things about the **Justice of the Peace position** is dealing with death." **Judge Menard** said, I'm prepared, I've been through so many deaths of loved ones." ****Every major newspaper in the country headlines **Matt Bryant, of Bridge City**, after he kicked the winning field goal in overtime to put his **New York Giants in the NFL playoffs** in a 10-7 win. Five months ago, **Matt**, who worked at a local pawn shop, was umpiring 11 and 12 year old **Little League baseball games** for \$25 a game to earn extra money. It's a **Cinderella story** of how a local boy became a star. (Editor's note: Twenty years later, **Matt is enjoying retirement**.) ****Over 300 people showed up for **Judge FL Edgerly's** retirement party at the **Bridge City Community Center**. **Barry Pickett** played the music, with special guest **Jivin' Gene**. A few folks spotted were **Sheriff Mike White**, **Judge Carl Thibodeaux**, **Scott Barnes**, **Joey Hargrave**, **Owen** and **Nelda Burton**, **John** and **Joyce Dubose**, **Jessie** and **Nolton Brown**, **Glenda** and **Danzel Thompson**, **Judge Barbara Dorman**, **Shorty Woods**, **Roy** and **Phyllis Dunn**, **Darlene** and **Bob Zavada**, **Mark** and **Ronda Carter** and many, many more well wishers.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Thank goodness the heat wave hit on Tuesday with the temps going up into the 50s. **Orange County is thawing** after a freezing few days at Christmas time. The wind chill got down to 3 degrees early Friday morning as the Arctic front blew in. Luckily, **Shangri La** had finished the lighted **Christmas strolls** on Wednesday night before the cold strong winds began blowing Thursday afternoon. On Tuesday, the **Stark Foundation** announced 30,005 people had gone on the strolls in December. Each year **Shangri La** adds more lights and lighted features. Seems like everywhere was dripping in lights this year. Wonder what next year will bring? ****Unfortunately, those strong winds blowing in Friday morning led to a **Christmas tragedy for a Bridge City couple**. The home of **Dustin and Brittany Chalmers Yu** on Suncrest was destroyed by a fire that quickly spread by the gusty winds. Luckily, they and their two children escaped, but they lost not only their house and belongings, but their two vehicles, too. **Community members and friends** immediately pitched in to help them out. Bridge City showed more signs of kindness as officers with the **Bridge City Police Department** went to some neighborhoods handing out Christmas stockings to kids. ****Disney World seems to have been a popular **Christmas vacation** spot for some **Orange County** residents. **Chris and Christi Kovatch** took all six children to **Disney World** for an extended stay. **Thayer** didn't lose his ice cream this time and **Styker** helped keep the lines moving. **Terri Catano** is enjoying her retirement from the **Orange Police Department** with family and extended family touring all the parks in **Disney World**... Looks like they enjoyed posing with **Darth Vader** and of course watching the castle covered in lights. **No word yet from **Orange County Commissioner Johnny Trahan**, or his wife, **Becky**, on taking their grown kids and grandchildren to the **Magical Kingdom**. *****Brandi Griggs** decided to get her **Christmas Disney fix** by taking her two youngest on a **Disney Magic Cruise**. *****Lori and Joel Ardoine** were celebrating a special surprise when son **Heston Cheshire** proposed to long-time girlfriend **Ashley Eby**. Wedding plans may have to be set around hurricane season, what with **Joel** being the **county's emergency management director** and **Lori** the **county's communication officer**. ***Looks like the **Tony and Nancy Dallas** family has another wedding coming up. **Cheese (Chad)**, the youngest, popped the question to long-time sweetheart **Madison Wilson**. **Tony** and **Nancy's** daughter **Leigh Anne** got married in October and son **Jack** in November. **Chad** wasn't too busy with getting engaged to visit **Aimee Fregia**, his good friend since childhood. She loved her visit from 'Cheez Elf'. *****Sue Cowling** celebrated her 80th birthday this week and we're wondering if she will share her beauty routine. It sure works. **George** and **Nevella Toal** marked their 46th wedding anniversary a couple of days after **Christmas**. *****Skipper Yeaman** sure knows how to give the gifts to bride **Gina Simar Yeaman**. He gave her presents for days, including jewelry. But most people will be envious of **Gina** when the heat returns of

her new fancy icemaker that produces 'Sonic-style' ice. ******Father Jim Sichko** got some 'Texas trash' from **David C. Claybar**. No, not the **Waste Management** kind. The good, buttery, spicy crunchy kind. Wonder if you should snack on that while sipping **Father Jim's** gifts from the **bourbon** fairy? Will the taste of the bourbon ruin the taste of the trash? ****On **Christmas Eve**, **Wendy Jenkins** and her middle son **Tyler** brought us a special gift, two loaves of **Wendy's** homemade bread, one cinnamon, one sweet bread. Oh, so good. **Judge Chad** tried to take credit for the gift, he signed the cards. **Wendy** tipped me off not to buy into that. I've missed a lot being away from the **Lunch Bunch** the last two years. For example, I didn't know **Judge Chad** and **Wendy** were grandparents of one-year-old twins or that their son had been run over by a pickup truck last year. Thankfully he has fully recovered. ****I fully appreciate my annual **Christmas** gift from **Philip Welch**, a quart of **B. Henley's Bobcat Farm** honey, produced by **"Happy Bees"**. I've eaten honey from around the country but none as good as local honey. I'm sorry I missed **Philip's** birthday on Dec. 20. Happy late birthday **Philip**. **Philip** told us about taking son **Sterling** to see the **"Million Dollar Quartet Christmas"** at the **Lutcher Theater** recently. In the coming days, **Sterling** showed that he had some skills on the piano. When "Killer" was asked to perform, he had the bench tossed and the right foot on the keys putting on a show. **Philip has him on video**. ******Christmas Eve** I got a call from our friend **Robert Ramirez**. He calls now and then to check up on me. I hear from a few friends now-a-days and the calls are much appreciated. **Robert** is that kind of guy. He has been fighting cancer and taking regular treatments and has also had **COVID** three times, one almost fatal. With sickness, a fire at his business, and repairs, he still finds time to check on others.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks we know celebrating their big day in the coming week. Dec. 28: **Karen Jo Vance**, **Debbie Thomas**, **Lynda Montagne**, **Stacy Roberts Debbie Taylor**, **Linn Gardner** and **Raymond Costilla** all celebrate. ****Dec. 29: **Kenny Dupuis**, **Donna Self**, **Julie Bock**, **Karen Phares**, **Harriet Dubose**, **Pam White**, **Pam DeDoux**, **Jacklyn Bradberry Sherrie Reid** and **Lauren Leger**. ****Dec. 30: Happy Birthday to **Kari Stringer**, **Kyler Walron**, **Paula Aven**, **Madison Reene Hanusch** and **Rebecca Hannegan**. ****Dec. 31: **Norma Fusilier**, **Holly Friend**, **Branda Amy**, **Richard Hunter**, **Jessica Anderson**, **Sandra Hovind** and **Hayden George**. ****Jan. 1: Happy Birthday to **Joanne Hill**, **Cynthia Hernandez**, **Glenda Wilburn** and **Ronnie Hearn**. ****Jan. 2: **Johnny Acevedo**, **Amber Cortez**, **Cody Johnson**, **Courtney Anderson**, **Jason Sieck**, **June Gunstream** and **Kathy Mercer**. ****Jan. 3: Celebrating today are **Jim Sharon Bearden**, **Owen Burton**, **Betty Johnson**, **Ann Burns** and **Barbara Dardeau**. **Happy Birthday to all**. (To announce birthdays or anniversaries call 409-886-7183 or news@therecordlive.com).

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Wen little Sid Fontenot got home from school Friday to start the **Christmas Holiday** vacation, his dad, **Big Sid**, axe him, "How was school today Little Sid?" "Well, Papa, I tell you, da darnest thing happen," he said. "Wat was dat?" **Big Sid** axe. "Well, Papa, some of dem high school boys turned one of dos white mice from da science lab loose in our turd grads classroom. Everybody started screaming as dat little mice run all over da room. Finally, dat little mice run under Miss Badeaux, da teacher's desk. Den Papa, dat mice him, run up her leg. Miss Badeaux her, screamed, grabbed her skirt, jumped up on her desk and you know wat Pappa, she squeezed about a pint of water out of dat little white mice."

C'EST TOUT OUR TIME HAS COME Orange County Prepares for the Boom

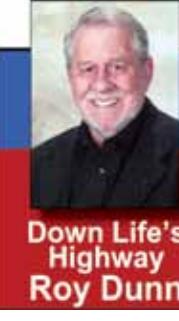
The new year will start to bring economic changes to our county. It will be a boom like we've not seen since **WWII**. Thousands of construction workers are coming for the next few years. Housing will face shortage but many RV parks are being made available. In the coming years **life will change** from a quite industrial base community to one that becomes more stressful but very **good for young people** entering the job market. We are blessed with good leadership across the board in all our municipalities and different boards. **Our county has excellent leadership** in its Commissioners Court. **County Judge John Gothia** is a dedicated servant and leader. He's the right person at this time to lead the county forward in what is a windfall for all of us. Along with commissioner **Johnny Trahan**, **Pct. 1**; incoming new commissioner of **Pct. 2**, **Chris Sowell**; **Pct. 3**, served by **Kirk Roccaforte**, who has many years of government experience; and former Vidor mayor, **Pct. 4** commissioner **Robert Viator**. Education will continue to be an important part of our growth. **Lamar State College, Orange**, is one of the fastest growing schools in Texas percentage wise. The college has always had good leadership but today **Lamar** is fortunate to have **Doctor Tom Johnson** as its president. A Port Arthur native, **Dr. Johnson** is a wide open type of guy. His motion is always forward with new ideas that fit right in with our future growth. **Johnson** is dedicated to working with our high schools which gives our students extra advantage and in time will keep more of our graduates at home with good paying jobs. **2023 brings a bright future** for our little part of Texas. I'm confident in the well being of our **four school districts** that will continue to grow under good leadership. We should see and expanded business base that will bring more sales tax for growing citizen services. **Our time has come**. Exciting times that should profit all of us. ****My time is up. Thanks for yours. See you in the New Year until then happy trails to you. **Take care and God bless**.

Grateful for sixty-eight years, shooting for seventy

Roy Dunn
Down Life's Highway
For The Record

How quickly the years have flown by. Come December 31, Phyl and I will mark our 68th wedding anniversary. I knew, my heart knew, and my soul knew, the second I met her that she was the one I wanted to spend my life with.

I went home and told my mom that I had met the girl I wanted to be my wife. Phyl never suspected. She was blinded by a smooth talking half-breed Cajun and Irish. I'd been around a lot and mostly on my own since the age of 14. She was a beautiful, olive skinned girl and that's probably what attracted my attention, but that's not what kept my interest. She was somewhat shy, soft-spoken and the nicest, kindest person I had ever met. She



Down Life's Highway
Roy Dunn

was uniquely different than all the other girls I'd known before, a junior at Bishop Byrne Catholic School, a good student, a good girl whose parents had high hopes for her future. I had to be the parents of a teenage daughter's worse fear. Her father was a Texaco plant worker and so was her only brother-in-law. The Oubres' only had two girls and here I come, a drifter without a plant job and no steady means of support, and I had targeted their baby daughter.

On New Year's Eve, 1954, with Margaret, a friend of Phyl's, we ran off to Kountze and got married at high noon by a lady Justice of the Peace. A lot of youngsters were eloping to Hardin County. There wasn't a waiting period. We needed a blood test so I pulled into Dr. Hammond's clinic. I didn't realize it was a hemorrhoid clinic. They treated us like royalty because we were the first couple to ever stop in for a blood test at their

rear-end clinic. Phyl should have known right then that I was going to take her down a winding road with lots of potholes, a ride she wasn't prepared for, coming from a regimented family with regular eating habits at regular times. Her dad kept track of every nickel spent in a little book including a pack of chewing gum. I kept no regular hours, made money through my wits. Sometimes I had money in my jeans; most often I was dead broke, not knowing where the next meal was coming from. She never once complained. We kept our marriage a secret until she graduated from high school and that night we moved into our first apartment in South Park and I became a door-to-door vacuum cleaner salesman.

Three thick volumes could be written about my exploits through the next quarter century. During those times, her strength sustained the marriage and provided a wholesome family life for our three children. We ended up raising two others. Through the upbringing of the youngsters I did the Little League coaching deal, she was the team mom and life was about normal except for the fact that I never had a regular job and she never had a budget.

The children, Mark, Allen and Karen were our primary focus. Raising children can be hectic and trying at times. Phyl is the most grounded person I know. A strong individual, a deep-rooted faith, a true sense of righteousness, wants only the simple things and the well-being of her family. We are opposites in the fact that I've been the out-going one.

When I reached the age of 45, on my birthday, we got lucky. All the work, long hours, and the help of many wonderful people paid off. With the children all grown, we could afford to retire. We enjoyed the travel and our place in the Rio Grande Valley. All the major struggles behind us, we enjoyed the life and each other.

Probably a big disappointment to Phyl was when I gave it all up 15 years later to see if I could repeat the successful pioneering in the publishing business again. When I've done these things so much of the work load ends up in her corner.

Some people retire at 65 and if they are lucky they make it to 80. I'd do it again the way we did it given the choice of both. But truthfully, the time is coming when I'll have to give it up. I'm a year and a half from 90 but not ready yet.

People ask what the secret to bring married 68 years is. There is no secret to it, just hope you live that long. I always knew that if the Lord let us, Phyl and I would grow old together. Only two percent of marriages make it to 60 years. If your spouse is your best friend or if you look forward to going home instead of the beer joint you're already on the right track to 60 years. You have to like being around each other.

Phyl and I have never had a major argument in all the years. We might not agree at times but respect each other too much to make a big deal out of it. She still thinks I'm funny and laughs at my lines. That wedding on that New Year's Eve a longtime ago has produced three children, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. We have been truly blessed with healthy offspring and a life for us with no major health problems. Our biggest fear, what we dread most, is the day that one of us will leave the other behind.

We are thankful for the many friends that came our way and are saddened by all those that we have lost. True friends, those you can count on and will always be there for you are few. It's not necessarily the ones you socialize with or are in constant contact with, it's those that are always with you wherever you are regardless of how long since the last contact.

Sixty-eight is a long time when you say it but because of those friends, a happy home life and staying busy, the years have just flown by.

We just can't believe it and wonder where the years went. Life is like a roll of toilet paper; the closer you get to the end the faster it goes. The waters of time run its many courses. There never was a doubt that we would share our lives until the bus comes to get one of us. We are grateful for 68 years and hope to make it to seventy.

Dedicated to our loving family.

Deaths & Memorials

Ruth E. Stone, 84, Bridge City

Ruth E. Stone, 84, was born August 3rd, 1938, in Pinckneyville Illinois, and passed away peacefully surrounded by her loved ones December 12th, 2022, at her home in Bridge City, Texas.



Ruth Stone

southern Illinois and southwestern Arkansas, singing alongside the Mid-Western Playboys. She was the lead singer in the "Jamie Richard's 5," all girl rock and roll band. She was a go-go dancer, singer, and guitar player, who fended off overly friendly Hillbillies. One of the clubs she frequently played was the Cotton Club in Marked Tree, AR.

She was also a waitress, owner of 2 Elaine Power's figure salons, licensed cosmetologist, top producing sales woman, owner and manager of Everything Gift Shop, owner and manager of Quality TV repair, and many other self-owned businesses.

On July 7, 1967, she married the love of her life James "J.R." Stone. Together they built a very happy life together. JR even managed to get her to slow down long enough start putting down roots in southeast Texas. Knowing she "got it right," Ruth and James were together until her death, nearly 56 years later.

Ruth was involved in many churches during her long life, the last being Outlaw Bible church, where she was the church mother.

She is survived by her husband of 55 years, J.R. Stone; children, Ronda Sue Eibert and husband, Dale, Theresia Renee Keaton and husband, Gary; grandchildren, April, William, Tiffany, Kalairn and wife Mik, and Trey; many foster children and adopted children, grandchildren and great grandchildren; along with numerous nieces, nephews, friends, and loved ones.

She is preceded in death by her children, Charles Clement Long, IV, Douglas Ray Stone, and Richard Lee Stone; parents, Rev. Hebert Rice, Clara Katherine Schmalriede Rice and stepmother Lola Theresia Adams Rice; siblings, Freddie Rice, Herbert "Little Herbie" Rice, Ina Chapman and stepbrother Loran Adams, Sr.

The family would like to send heartfelt thanks to: Heart to Heart Hospice, The Outlaw Bible Church, Meals on Wheels. Caregivers: Mary, CNA; Natasha, RN; Melody, RN; Victor, RN; Chaplain Michael, Social Worker Lela, and many other wonderful people who helped us during this time.

Arrangements for a memorial service will held in May 2023, to allow out of state friends and family to participate.

Flowers are gratefully declined. In lieu of flowers, please make a donation to The Alzheimer's Association or The American Heart Association, in Ruth's Memory.

Arrangements were handled by Riley Smith & Sons Funeral Home, 1810 W. 4th Street, DeQuincy, Louisiana.

She had hustle. Ruth worked the clubs in

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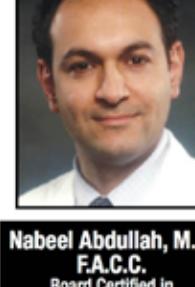


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For sale: Small toy poodle puppies, males, Registered w/ papers, 8 weeks old, 1 white, 1 black. All shots, groomed and Vet checked. Christmas Special \$1000. 409-504-8879

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For sale at Claybar Cemetery, 2 plots, Lot No. 153, Block B, Unit No. 3-4, Section No. 1 in Garden of Christus. \$5300.00 Please call Paula at 409-735-3812.

American Legion Post 49 409-886-1241 Hall Rental

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LEGAL NOTICE

The three properties, the first commonly known as 1520 Buckhorn St., Vidor, TX 77662, the second as 3266 Brent Drive, Orange, TX 77632 and the third as 375 E. Railroad St., Vidor, TX 77662, are scheduled to be sold at public foreclosure auction on 01/03/2023 at 01:00 PM or no later than 3 hours thereafter at the back door of the Courthouse County Courthouse in Orange County, Texas, or if the preceding area is no longer the designated area, at the area most recently designated by the Orange County Commissioner's Court. The Substitute Trustee will be Margie Allen, Kyle Barclay, Tommy Jackson, Keata Smith, Stephanie Hernandez, Selim Taherzadeh, Mo Taherzadeh, or Michael Linke, any to act. The winning bidder buys "as is" and must pay at the auction with certified funds.

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Bearden lifting for the Lord

OC SPORTS BEAT
DAN PERRINE
For The Record

The term power lifter may create in some people's minds an image of a large bulky muscle bound guy with a Russian last name. Hallie Bearden is as far from that description as the earth is to heaven.

Hallie Bearden is a sophomore at Bridge City High School and since her freshman year has become a leading power lifter in Texas. The lifting of weights has strengthened Hallie's body and also her faith in God. "Nothing that you do performance wise in the gym lifting weights is done by your strength. It's all by His, and so I really got to connect on a deeper level with God through this," Bearden professed.

The Bearden family members are all involved in athletics. Hallie's brothers JS and Hutch are both football players with the Bridge City Cardinals and have worked out with weights to get in shape which is how Hallie got interested in doing the training with weights.

Lifting weights had an appeal for Hallie. She explained, "I always found an interest in it especially when I was in middle school, and when I was in the sixth grade they offered a strength and conditioning camp. The first day I went to it they got



our squat maxes and ever since then I knew I was going to do power lifting."

Prior to starting power lifting Hallie had participated in multiple sports. Now she is concentrating solely on power lifting. "I knew that there was just something different about this sport, and the thing that was so different about this sport was that none of these lifts were done in my own strength and it was all through God. When you step up to that platform you had to have confidence in Him and His ability to give you strength to do this," Bearden reminded.



Bearden performs the squat for which she set a national record for her classification. RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

The top two priorities for Bearden are power lifting and God, but not in that order. "A thousand percent God, He comes first especially in power lifting you have to put

Him first," Hallie acknowledged.

As important as power lifting is for Hallie, as a teenaged girl it does occa-

first especially in power lifting you have to put

BC'S BEARDEN Page 3B



Kaz's Fearless Football Forecast

College Bowl Games This Week

★ MILITARY BOWL—

1 p.m. Today at Annapolis, MD. (ESPN)—UCF (9-4) over Duke (8-4).

★ LIBERTY BOWL—

4:30 p.m. Today at Memphis, TN. (ESPN)—Arkansas (6-6) over Kansas (6-6).

★ HOLIDAY BOWL—

7:30 p.m., Today at San Diego, Calif. (ESPN)—Oregon (9-3) over North Carolina (9-4).

★ TEXAS BOWL—

8 p.m. Today at NRG Stadium in Houston, TX. (ESPN)—Ole Miss (8-4) over Texas Tech (7-5).

★ PINSTRIPE BOWL—

1 p.m. Thursday at New York City (ESPN)—Min-

SEE KAZ'S FORECAST PAGE 6B

How Do Fish and Wildlife Survive Severe Cold Weather?



Cold-stunned sea turtles at the Brownsville Ship Channel.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

This week many Texans saw snow for the first time as a record cold front plunged our state into single-digit temperatures.

While humans struggle with power and water outages, how are our native fish and wildlife faring? For many animals, it depends on how well prepared they are, including having healthy fat reserves.

That's reassuring for those of us who have been building up our own fat deposits.

Texas has few true hibernating animals. But many animals do slow way, way down.

Many native wildlife species will be able to survive short durations of historic low temperatures and snow events. However, long-term impacts on a variety of wildlife and their habitats, especially on vegetation, may not be known for weeks.

Here's a rundown of how different animals handle the cold.

WILDLIFE Page 2B

BIRDS

Though they appear to be small and delicate, birds actually have several strategies for toughing out cold temps.

They prepare for winter by adding more feathers, in American Robins up to 50% more.

They create their own puffer coats by fluffing their feathers to trap warm air. That's why some birds look extra fluffy in cold weather.

How do they keep their feet from freezing? Birds have an adaption called countercurrent heat exchange. As explained by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology: "Cool blood coming back from the foot travels through veins grouped around arteries that are sending warm blood from the body to the foot. Heat is transferred from the warm arteries to the cool veins."

Birds flock to food sources to build up their energy reserves. Many Texans have noticed large flocks of robins and cedar waxwings in their neighborhoods.

Here's a rundown of how different animals handle the cold.

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NFL season down to final two weeks before playoffs

KAZ'S KORNER

Joe Kazmar For The Record

Last week's frigid weather didn't stop many of the National Football League teams whose playoff future is still up in the air from playing sizzling football.

Even our two Lone Star State franchises came up with upset victories with the Dallas Cowboys outlasting the NFL's best team Philadelphia Eagles 40-36 while the NFL's worst team Houston Texans surprised the AFC South Division-leading Tennessee Titans 19-14.

Although upset victories are great for the morale, in real time both starting quarterbacks--Jalen Hurts of the Eagles and Titans veteran Ryan Tannehill of the Titans--missed last week's contest due to injury.

The Cowboys have made it a habit of beating the tough teams and losing to the dogs. They are 7-1 so far this season against teams with winning records.

The Pokes still have a mathematical chance of overtaking the Eagles, but I wouldn't bet on it. Dallas finishes the regular season on the road at Tennessee tomorrow and at Washington next week while the Eagles enjoy the home-field advantage this week against the New Orleans Saints and finish the season at home against the New York Giants.

The Texans have a slim outside chance of blowing their No. 1 pick in the 2023 NFL draft by winning out this season with games against division rivals Jacksonville at home and at Indianapolis, finishing the season with a 4-12-1 record and perhaps losing the lousiest team award to either Chicago (3-12), Arizona (4-11) or Denver (4-11).

But in the real world of playoff hopefuls, two of the most seasoned quarterbacks in the league have an opportunity of getting their respective teams into the playoffs—Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers and Tampa Bay's Tom Brady. All NFL teams fear these two gray-beards when it comes to playoff time.

If both teams win their final two games, they should make the NFL playoffs. Brady's Buccaneers would win the NFC



South Division with a pair of victories, while the Packers may need a little help because of their 23-21 loss to Washington in Game 8.

The Commanders currently stand at 7-7-1 and with two wins would finish 9-7-1 while the Packers would finish 9-8 with two final victories.

Neither Rodgers nor Brady had anywhere near their best games of the season, but rallied their respective teams to victory last weekend after falling behind late in the game.

Rodgers brought his team from a 20-13 half-time deficit with a tying touchdown in the third period and then drove his team to a pair of field goals late in the game after Miami quarterback Tua Tagovailoa threw three straight interceptions.

Veteran kicker Mason Crosby calmly booted field goals of 28 and 26 yards for the 26-20 upset Green Bay victory. He was playing in his 257th consecutive game, which broke the tie with Brett Favre for most in Packers' history. Neither player had ever missed a game.

Tampa Bay had fallen behind 16-6 in the fourth quarter and Brady came to life driving his team to a touchdown and a field goal to tie the game and send it into overtime.

Brady once again connected on some pin-point throws, got his team into scoring position for the winning field goal and kept his team in the playoff hunt, 19-16.

Teams that have already clinched division championships include Kansas City, Buffalo, Minnesota and San Francisco while playoff berths have been secured by Dallas, Cincinnati, Los Angeles Chargers, Baltimore and Philadelphia.

That leaves just five playoff spots remaining for teams not officially eliminated including Miami, New York Jets, New England, Jacksonville, Tennessee, Pittsburgh, Las Vegas, New York Giants, Washington, Tampa Bay, Carolina, New Orleans, Detroit, Green Bay and Seattle.



Aaron Rodgers



Tom Brady

Teams that have been mathematically eliminated include the Houston Texans, Chicago Bears, Indianapolis Colts, Cleveland Browns, Denver Broncos, Atlanta Falcons, Arizona Cardinals and the defending world champion Los Angeles Rams.

KWICKIES...

Wake Forest head coach Dave Clawson, who beat Missouri 27-17 in the Gator Bowl last week, has won 10 or more games in a single season and a conference championship at four different schools in his college coaching career.

The Cincinnati Bengals held on for dear life in their 22-18 victory at New England Friday after jumping off to a 22-0 lead at halftime. The 11-4 Bengals, who have already clinched a playoff berth, still have an outside chance of overtaking Kansas City and Buffalo—who both stand at 12-3—and getting a first-round bye and homefield advantage for the entire playoffs.

The Chicago Bears' current eight-game losing streak has tied the longest streak in franchise history and is the second longest in the NFL this season, right behind our Houston Texans, who lost nine games in a row before upsetting the Tennessee Titans 19-14 on Friday.

The world of women's golf is mourning the loss of Kathy Whitworth, whose 88 tour victories are the most by any player on a single professional tour, including Tiger Woods, Sam Snead, Mickey Wright or Annika Sorenstam.

ESPN, on its "First Take" show Monday morning,

predicted that Carolina would overtake Tampa Bay and win the NFC South Division after upsetting the Bucs this Sunday.

ESPN also reported Sunday that former Houston Rockets star James Harden is considering a return to the Rockets which would serve as a veteran piece of the team's rebuilding project.

JUST BETWEEN US...

The College Football Playoffs will have both semifinal games Friday when TCU (12-1) takes on undefeated Michigan (13-0) in the Fiesta Bowl which kicks off at 3 p.m. on ESPN. It will be followed by the 7 p.m. Peach Bowl also on ESPN which features No. 1 Georgia (13-0) against No. 4 Ohio State (13-1) who should feel fortunate to even be in the game. It would make for a really good national championship game which I hope happens.



Mockingbird, the Texas state bird, fluffed up in the cold..

Wildlife survival in extreme cold

From Page 1B

borhoods feasting on fruit.

Birds that have done a good job building up fat and are generally healthy will make it through the winter. Those that have little fat will have a hard time.

Surprisingly, urban communal roosts may harbor some of the most vulnerable birds. With past arctic blasts, bird deaths have been most notable among the large populations of great-tailed grackles in Texas cities.

"I've seen autopsy reports of some of these dead grackles from Austin and they usually found the dead ones had heavy internal parasite loads, like liver flukes," says Cliff Shackleford, TPWD ornithologist. "Those individuals were already weakened."

TPWD staff and the public have made these

observations regarding bird health and mortality due to the winter weather.

• MAMMALS

You may have noticed your neighborhood squirrels out busily digging. They're likely checking their stashes of food they stored to survive cold weather.

The two most common squirrels in Texas, the gray squirrel and the fox squirrel, rely on these caches, along with their fast reserves and cozy nests to make it through the winter.

Deer and coyotes grow heavier winter coats to help them survive the colder weather. These winter coats are generally thicker and have a well-developed underlayer. As with birds, the healthy animals with ample fat will

WILDLIFE Page 6B

Edward Jones

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Cheers to a New Year!

As the calendar turns the page, we wish you the very best in the year ahead.



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The Record Community News Online

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BC Bearden From Page 1B

sionally take a backseat to other interests. Bearden still does cheer leading which is the only other sport in which she participates, and there are certain social events that interfere with her lifting exercises. Consistency is the key though according to Bearden so she does not stray from her weight lifting practices for any long stretches at all.

Inspiration for her training came from weight lifting coach Mike Denman who has challenged Hallie mentally to be the strongest she could ever be and taught her about how God is involved in every situation in life. "Coach Mike is just a man full of wisdom and love and has truly just put his passion into me to keep doing what I'm doing," Bearden testified.

Hallie's other coach at Bridge City High School is Rachel Hamery. Hallie praised, "She's amazing. She truly is a coach that has your best interest at heart. She's a great coach she makes sure you've got everything you need and that you're in the right mental place to keep you lined out."

Support for Hallie to pursue her power lifting has come from her family. Even brothers JS and Hutch. "They've definitely supported me showing up and being there for meets. It's kind of a tough love situation picking with me, always competing with me about who's stronger, but I know it's always out of love and just a very playful supportive relationship," responded Hallie.

Her dad Jim Sharon Bearden Jr. is so very proud of his daughter. Mr. Bearden stated, "I've always described to other people how Hallie ever since she's been a little girl has been a very, very driven and motivated child. I call her quote my good egg, I never have to worry about Hallie. She's the first one to church and the last one to leave, and she's always the first one in the weight room and the last one to leave. I'm over the moon about my little girl."

Jim Sharon Junior quoted his dad Jim Sharon Senior about it's not the size of the dog in the fight, it's the size of the fight in the dog, adding Hallie embodies that. "She always has, and whether it's power lifting or whether it's being a good neighbor Hallie's going to be successful at whatever she does. I don't care if she decides to be a preacher or

whether she decides to be an engineer or whether she even decides to be a lawyer Hallie's going to succeed in life not necessarily because of her physical attributes but because of what's here in her heart," daddy Bearden promised.

Mr. Bearden emphasized Hallie has her priorities in the proper order. He responded, "God is her beacon, and everything else falls in line. I think her outlook on life is a really good lesson, and I think we could all use a little bit these days even myself of just putting God first and everything will fall in line."

Power lifting at the high school level involves three types of lifts called squat, bench press, and dead lift. The lifter gets three attempts at each lift to do their best result.

On squat the competitor stands vertically with the barbell holding the weights on their back. When the command is given to squat they bend at the knees until the coach says up and the competitor squats up.

The bench press is lifting more with the contestant's arms. From a laying position on the bench the lifter holds the bar above their chest and when the command is given they press the weights up.

For the dead lift the barbell with the weights is placed on the ground. The lifter picks it up and holds it in place near their hips until the judge says down and that completes the dead lift.

Bearden competes in all three lifts. Usually the dead lift is the best result for Hallie over her squat total. "Every couple of months my squat will catch up to my dead lift or be better. Then a couple months later my dead lift will catch up and be better than my squat. I'm definitely stronger in the leg area and the results go back and forth between which I'm better at that season," Bearden replied.

Power lifting has benefitted Hallie mentally. Bearden described, "It has pushed me to my limits, torn me down and brought me all the way back up. It definitely has pushed me and just made me find a new strength and a whole new drive within myself. Spiritually it has brought me so much closer to God."

As might be expected power lifting has had a physical benefit for Hallie.

"One thing I really love about power lifting and the workouts is you get to see a lot of spiritual parallels physically. Pushing yourself to the limit and

308 pounds in the squat broke the APF state and national record. Her dead lift also of 308 pounds broke the national APF record.

Power lifting is an individual sport but invitational meets allow the lifters to compete as a team. Bridge City High School has been pretty good at power lifting. There are around 20 girls on the team with 12 participating during invitational meets which the lifters alternate attending.

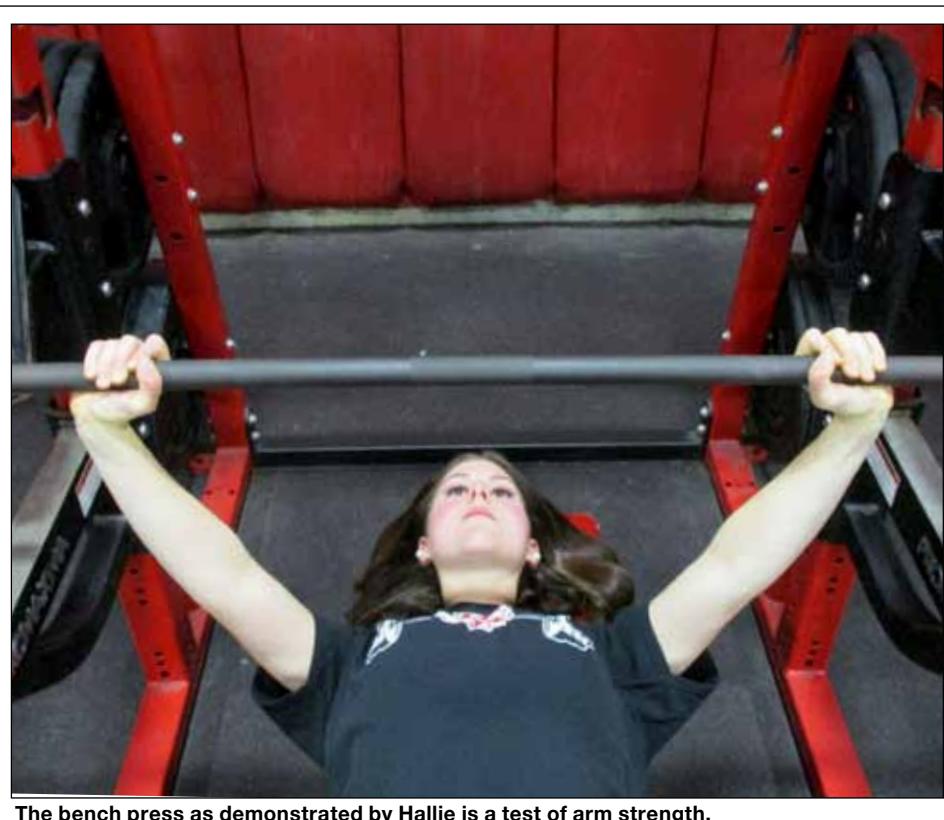
Last year the Bridge City girls had two lifters go to state with fourteen also going to regionals which was an exceptionally strong showing with many of them being underclassmen. "We should expect to see a lot more going to state this year," Hallie believes.

Bearden admitted she can be a little bit hard headed and will on occasion bite off more than she can chew. Hallie expressed, "This year I definitely want to get top three in state, and with God in the center, a lot of hard work, and just a little bit of His blessing possibly even win it."

As a sophomore the sky really is the limit for Bearden in her power lifting the next three years at Bridge City High School. "My junior and senior years it is very, very possible to win state. This year I know that it's going to be a tight situation just to really see how far I could push myself as a sophomore and what I could do in a crunch," Bearden replied.

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The bench press as demonstrated by Hallie is a test of arm strength.

RECORD PHOTO: Dan Perrine

doing it with your whole heart has definitely shown me about simpler things within the Bible and within God's purpose and in His word for me in a physical way that I can truly comprehend. Spiritually it has brought me so much closer to Him because I have to lean on Him a thousand percent in everything that I do in this sport," Bearden related.

Speaking of physical improvement Hallie confirmed that working with weights has taught her many healthy life style habits. It has put more muscle on her and increased her ability to lift the weights. Bearden said, "I remember my freshman year doing some weights and thinking it would be impossible to do this much, and looking back where I am now that's light weight it's not even

scratching the surface of where I want to be or what I should be. I want to continue to maintain these healthy habits."

Bearden as mentioned previously has her goals in power lifting for her remaining years in high school. She has thought about future power lifting competition after she graduates from Bridge City though APF invitational meets. "I'm not quite sure if I'll compete with a college yet because they do offer college power lifting teams, but it's not UIL (University Interscholastic League) based or by the state so there's not a whole lot invested into it. Regardless, I'm going to do some thinking but this will always have a special place in my heart and no matter if it's on a team or not I will be lifting as long as I can," Hal-

lie said. The future plans for Hallie Bearden will be led by her faith and trust in God to put her on the path He chooses for her. Bearden confirmed, "I want to go into the missionary ministries and I do have college plans for that. I'm really just kind of waiting on the Lord to just give a solid direction and more discernment on where to go to college."

After college Hallie believes she will seek a position in the missionary field. "I've really been trying to focus on where God has me now, but I do know a thousand percent God has a call on my life to go into missionaries and ministries and to work ultimately for His kingdom where ever that means going and in two years I'll go," Bearden concluded.

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OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record

From my perch on the poling platform I often have plenty of time to think while I push my little boat around the marsh. The standard stuff that goes through every fisherman's mind usually dominates my thoughts. "Where are the fish?" "Should I change locations?" "Is this the right bait?" Nothing out of the ordinary, just everyday fishing thoughts that happen to come to mind. Plenty of those moments routinely get interrupted by my fishing partner for that day and I snap back to reality. During one of my recent "brainstorming" moments I watched a client just absolutely beat himself up for not remembering to bring a particular piece of gear. The whole episode spawned a conversation between the two of us about our own misfortunes or "Murphy's Law moments" while fishing. Much to the delight of my client for the day I had plenty of those moments from which to choose from.

I don't care who you are or how experienced you are,



Chuck Uzzle if you have ever owned a boat you have forgotten your keys or lost them on the way to the launch at least one time in your career. Many folks don't consider how easy it is to have your keys blow out while trailering to your launch if you leave them in the ignition. I learned that lesson the hard way. Nothing makes you feel more foolish than committing a blunder like that in front of 3 clients, trust me. Luckily I was only 5 minutes from my house and was able to retrieve my spare so essentially it was no harm no foul. I have however seen the really bad version of this event unfold on an extended road trip 100 miles from home. The feeling of excitement one gets from the opportunity to fish a new body of water is quickly erased once everyone realizes there is no way to start the boat and no place to get a new key. Buzz kill does not begin to describe that ride home.

Speaking of forgetting things I have had clients forget all sorts of gear. I've had them show up with no rods. I've had them show up with no reels. More than a couple of occasions they have also shown up without various pieces of wading gear up to and including waders, jackets, and most often boots. Typically I can accommodate folks because I keep several spare sets but on occasion it just doesn't work out when you try to put someone who is 6 foot 3 in waders made for those of us who are "vertically challenged".

As far as waders go I have had my own difficulties as of late and I have no one to blame but myself. On a recent duck hunt I picked up a pair of my Gulf Coast breathable waders that I wear for both fishing and hunting at this time of the year and stuffed them in my wader bag for a hunt the following day. In the dark I reached in the wader bag and pulled out my boots first and then grabbed my waders, or so I thought. I unrolled the pair only to realize that they had no stocking feet on them! I had taken this particular set that I



You never know what you'll see on the water.

replaced and cut the feet out of them to leave in my truck for use as raingear or while training dogs at the pond. There was nothing I could do but take my medicine, wear them, and make the best out of it. Needless to say my hunting partners were extremely amused at my misfortune and all I could do was laugh with them. Fortunately for me it was not really cold and I managed to make due. From that point on I have made it a habit to double check my gear. Lesson

learned.

With the days still feeling like the holiday season I guess we could laugh at one more example that involves "giving". On a weekend trip to Matagorda Bay I had taken all the precautions necessary for the trip, trailer lights were in order, wheel bearings were greased, spare tire along with a good jack were packed, and it was all strapped down and road ready. Or so I thought. We made the drive with no stops until we hit Matagorda and stopped to put gas

in the boat and grab a few snacks. As I walked around the boat something didn't seem right but I couldn't quite put my finger on it. Finally it hit me and all I could do was stand there and stare at the spot where my 21 foot Stiffy push pole was supposed to be. Yes, somewhere along the way I had lost my push pole and some lucky individual had gotten a very nice Christmas present. I was sick about the whole deal but there was nothing I could do about it except put an ice bag on my feelings and go on about my business. You can rest assured I never leave my driveway without my new push pole being properly secured.

Now there are plenty of other crazy things that have happened to me while on the water or at least on the way to it and I am sure there will be more. Each one has taught me a lesson and provided some sort of entertainment for those involved. It's easy to look back and laugh at all the mishaps because they trigger some great memories. It's always been said "if you can't laugh at yourself then you may be wound too tight", I have no problem laughing at myself and I hope that some of my episodes will help keep you from your own mishaps.

NHTSA Reminds Holiday Revelers to Drive Sober

Staff Report
For The Record

The U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration has kicked off its annual holiday season impaired-driving campaign, raising awareness of the dangers of driving while impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Addressing drivers' risky behavior is one of the five elements of the USDOT's National Roadway Safety Strategy, which also includes an emphasis on safer roads, safer vehicles, safer speeds and better post-crash care.

NHTSA also released the findings of a new study on drug and alcohol use by road users involved in serious and fatal crashes. The data shed new light on the prevalence of drug and alcohol involvement in serious crashes, just as one of the deadliest seasons for impaired driving gets underway.

The high-visibility enforcement campaign begins December 14 and runs through January 1. In December 2020, traffic crashes involving an impaired driver killed 937 people.

"Making a plan for a safe, sober ride home is critical to saving lives this holiday season," said NHTSA Acting Administrator Ann Carlson. "I urge everyone to do their part to end these preventable tragedies by always driving sober, designating a sober driver, using public transportation or calling a taxi or ride-hailing service."

To continue to educate drivers throughout the holiday season, NHTSA will be promoting the following messages: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over and If You Feel Different, You Drive Different; Drive High, Get a DUI. The campaign is supported by a \$13.2 million national media buy, which includes TV, radio, and digital ads in English and Spanish. The agency is also debuting new English and Spanish TV commercials focusing on drug-impaired driving.

As part of the high-visibility enforcement efforts, law enforcement officers nationwide will be going the extra mile in their



communities from December 14 through January 1 to get impaired driv-

ers off the roads, with efforts such as sobriety checkpoints and commu-

nity outreach.

NHTSA's newly published report, Alcohol and Drug Prevalence Among Seriously or Fatally Injured Road Users [[link to final report](#)], takes a closer look at the pervasiveness of alcohol and drug use in serious and fatal crashes. The study – which included participation from seven Level 1 trauma centers across the country – examined the prevalence of alcohol and legal, prescription and illegal drugs in the blood of a large sample of seriously or fatally injured drivers and other crash victims, including bicyclists and

pedestrians.

The study found:

Fifty-six percent of seriously or fatally injured road users tested positive for alcohol, or some type of drug known to have potentially impairing effects.

The presence of cannabinoids (25%) and alcohol (23%) were most prevalent, followed by stimulants (11%) and opioids (9%).

The presence of two or more drugs was reported in 18% of cases with serious injuries and 32% of the fatalities.

Driving impaired by any

substance – alcohol or other drugs, whether legal or illegal – is against the law in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. To prevent unnecessary tragedies, NHTSA urges everyone to plan ahead, especially when celebrating the holidays, and to never drive drunk or high. Instead, designate a sober driver, use public transportation, or call a ride-hailing service or taxi to make sure you get home safely. Remember to check the availability of sober ride programs in your community. If you see an impaired driver on the road, call 911.

**AM I OKAY
TO DRIVE?**

**BUZZED DRIVING
IS DRUNK DRIVING**

NHTSA

ad COUNCIL

Entertainment: Going into 2023 and beyond



Air Supply is scheduled for the Golden Nugget Casino for Jan. 13, 2023.

Tommy Mann Jr. For The Record

The official start to the holiday season has begun and there are a bunch of great events on tap for the next several weeks. A few big shows have been announced for 2023 already as well including Aaron Lewis at the Jefferson Theatre on Feb. 4, The Mavericks at the

Jefferson Theatre on Feb. 10 and For King and Country at Ford Park Arena on May 6. Check out the shows below and visit the venue websites for more details.

• Dec. 27 Toadies, House of Blues, Houston

• Dec. 29 Trans-Siberian Orchestra, Toyota Center, Houston

tra, Toyota Center, Houston

IN 2023

• Jan. 13 Air Supply, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

• Jan. 19 Eden, House of Blues, Houston

• Jan. 20 Cody Johnson, Randy Houser, Jesse Raub Jr., Cajun Dome, Lafayette, La.

• Feb. 4 Aaron Lewis, Jefferson Theatre, Beaumont

• Feb. 10 The Mavericks, Jefferson Theatre, Beaumont

• Feb. 11 Lainey Wilson, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La., Anthrax, Black Label Society, Bayou Music Center, Houston

• Feb. 12 Danny Ocean, House of Blues, Houston

• Feb. 14 Bruce Springsteen & The E Street Band, Toyota Center, Houston

• Feb. 17 Kenny Wayne Shepherd,

Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La. Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

• Feb. 23 Journey, Toto, Cajun Dome, Lafayette, La.

• Feb. 25 John Mellencamp, Smart Financial Center, Sugar Land

• Feb. 25 Tracy Lawrence, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

• March 9 TobyMac, Crowder, Cochran & Co., Tasha Layton, Jon Reddick, Terrian, CajunDome, Lafayette, La.

• March 12 Static-X, Fear Factory, Mushroomhead, Dope, House of Blues, Houston

• March 14 Skillet, Theory of a Deadman, Saint Asonia, Bayou Music Center, Houston

• March 31 Sammy Kershaw, Golden

• April 22 Taylor Swift, NRG Stadium, Houston

• May 6 For King and Country, Ford Arena, Beaumont

• June 16 Thomas Rhett, Cole Swindell, Nate Smith, CajunDome, Lafayette, La.

• June 30 Matchbox Twenty, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• July 8 Blink-182, Turnstile, Toyota Center, Houston

• July 22 Shania Twain, Mickey Guyton, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

• Aug. 12 Foreigner, Loverboy, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion, The Woodlands

Spring Gardens: Seed Germination

John Green Orange County Master Gardeners

Okay, winters here, and what a dramatic arrival! Gardeners let's make good use of these bitterly cold weather days reviewing the litany of seed and gardening catalogues which have been piling up over the past few months. Seed catalogues are filled with detailed, useful information and reading them provides an opportunity to learn about new plant (seed) varieties available and will help you to determine if they are a good match for your gardens. Each Spring, I prefer to start most of my vegetables from seed selected from numerous seed catalogues. I personally enjoy growing several varieties of tomatoes and peppers which are not locally available for purchase. For tomato seeds, an all-time favorite seed catalogue is Totally Tomatoes. The catalogue has pepper and other vegetable seed varieties as well, but its primary focus is geared toward tomato growers. They literally have hundreds of tomato varieties from heirloom to amazing new hybrids, most of which are well suited to our SETX growing environment. Once seed selections are determined, you'll want to place your order quickly as seed quantities are limited, and seed vendors sell out fast but also time is needed to start the germination process in preparation of spring planting.

The Farmer's Almanac states the last frost date for SETX (Jefferson/Orange County area) is February 29th, give or take a couple weeks for surrounding cities due to our ever-changing weather patterns. My point being, if you choose to plant cold-sensitive vegetables early, be prepared to cover plants by having supplies on-hand to do so! To get an early start for spring planting, many gardeners (myself included) start seeds indoors or in a greenhouse. Germinating seeds into plants is economical since plants are always much more expensive to purchase. It's easy to calculate when to start seeds for germination, use the anticipated last frost date and

Plant	Start Seeds (Weeks to Last Frost)	Time to Germinate (Days)	Temperature (°F)	Light Req (Light/Dark)	Additional Information
Basil	6-8	7-10	60	L	Cover with 1/4" soil
Cornus	8	9-10	65	L	
Eggplant	8	10-12	70	L or D	
Foxglove	4-6	14-25	70-75	L	Cover with 1/4" soil
Gentian	6-8	14-21	70-85	L	Surface soil-cover lightly
Gazania	4-6	8-14	68	L	Cover with 1/4" soil
Forsley Pepper	6-8	14-21	65-70	D	Cover with 1/4" soil
Rose	6-8	21	70	L	Surface soil-cover lightly
Salsify	6-8	21	70	L	Surface soil-cover lightly
Tomato	6	5-12	70	L or D	
Verbena	12	15-20	65	D	
Watermelon	4 or less	5-10	85	L or D	
Zinnia	6	5-10	70	L or D	
Plant	Start Seeds (Weeks to Last Frost)	Time to Germinate (Days)	Temperature (°F)	Light Req (Light/Dark)	Additional Information
Lupine	6-8	14-60	65-70	L	Soak seeds and soak in water cover with 1/4" soil
DBL	2-6	14	70	L	Soak in water cover with 1/4" soil
Cucumber	4 or less	5-10	65	L or D	
Nasturtium	3	10-14	70	D	Cover with 1/4" soil

count backwards the number of weeks needed to transplant outdoors, in most cases 8 to 12 weeks.

Some types of small pots are needed for seedlings to germinate and upcycling old garden pots is always a good idea while being environmentally sensible. Remove used soil and make certain to thoroughly clean the pots using a mild bleach solution which kills germs and bacteria and air dry. Now the sterilized containers are ready to be filled with a purchased seed soil mix which is inert. It's best to use a soil mix specifically made to start seeds, since the soil mix must be very light having the ability to hold moisture, while permitting air flow into the soil. Fill each container then tap lightly to remove air pockets. The pots are ready for seeds to be planted.

Seed packages provide detailed planting instructions with most stating to cover the seeds with at least 1/4 inch of soil. Note-if following these instructions, seeds will often not germinate properly or only a few seeds will sprout. It is possible and highly likely the seeds should not be covered with soil. Many seeds need light to germinate so covering them with soil impedes germination. There are also many seeds which require darkness for germination. The amount of light or dark grossly affects their germination, as does temperature which should range between 60-70 . Find a warm location, such as the top of a refrigerator or freezer, to provide bottom heat for the seeds' container or consider purchasing a heating mat designed for seedlings. Keep the soil

moist during germination, while always water containers from the bottom.

So long for now fellow gardeners, until next year. Let's go out and grow ourselves a greener, more sustainable world, one plant at a time! Happy New Year to each of you, be safe!

If you have specific gardening questions or would like more information, email me: jongreene57@gmail.com or contact the Orange County Master Gardeners Helpline: (409) 882-7010 or visit our website: <https://txmg.org/orange>, Facebook: Orange County Texas Master Gardeners Association or Email: extension@co.oranage.tx.us.

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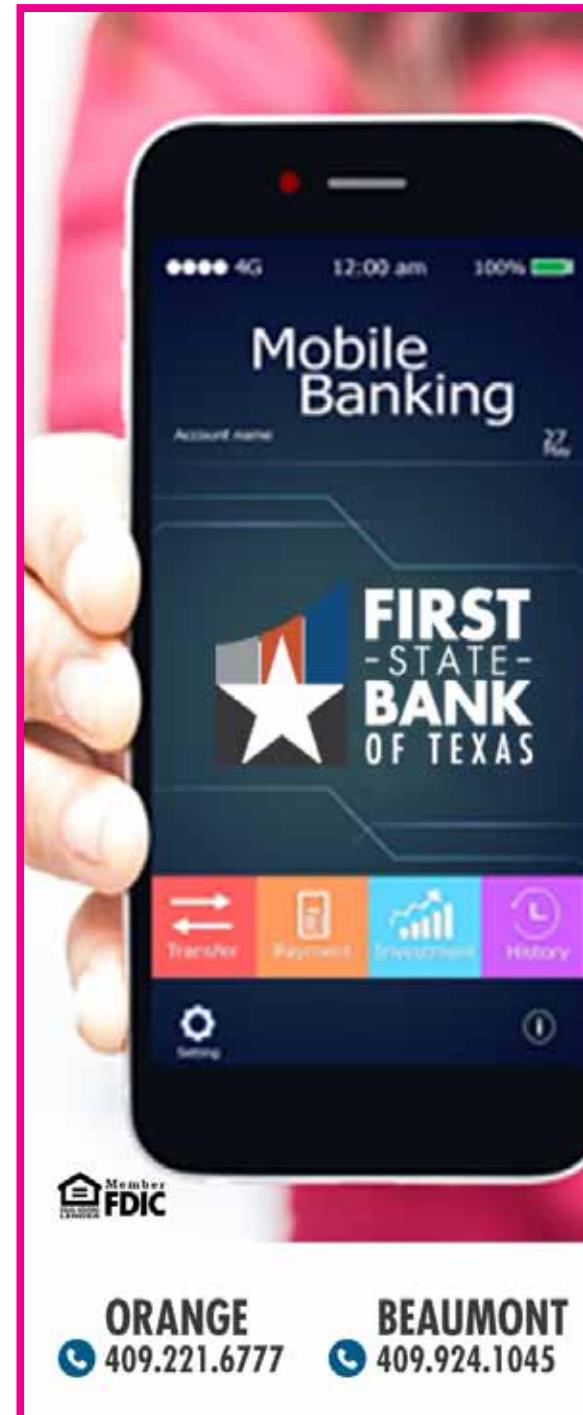
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Wildlife survival in winter

From Page 1B

make it through the winter, while those in poor health may succumb to the cold, wintry conditions.

• FISH

During cold weather, many fish slow down and head for deeper waters where it's somewhat warmer. Unfortunately, fish in shallow water, especially in our coastal areas, may not survive a hard freeze, resulting in large 'fish kills' during cold snaps. Our Kills and Spills team collects data on these events to assess the overall impact on Texas fish populations.

When temperatures on the coast fall below freezing, TPWD may close certain areas to saltwater fishing as we had to do for two days this year.

"The high mortality that a freeze can cause may deplete fish stocks for years," said Robin Riechers, director of TPWD's Coastal Fisheries Division. "Protection of the surviving fish

during the few days when they are especially vulnerable to capture would likely shorten the time period for overall recovery of coastal species, especially spotted sea trout."

• SEA TURTLES, SNAKES AND OTHER REPTILES

Reptiles such as snakes, alligators and freshwater turtles go into a state of dormancy, called brumation. They'll find a crevice or burrow to crawl into and wait out the winter.

"They're cold-blooded. Their metabolisms just slow down with the environment," says TPWD.

• Tri-color bats in Buffalo, Texas

Texas bats have different approaches to winter, depending on the species. Since bats rely on insects for food, and insects are scarce in the winter, they must either migrate to where the in-

sects are or hibernate to wait out the winter.

The bats that choose to hibernate will find a suitable cave or culvert and settle in. But that doesn't mean they're completely dormant.

"Bats will be down in hibernation for two weeks or so at a time," says Nathan Fuller, TPWD bat specialist. "Some kind of trigger causes them to arouse from their hibernation and do some stuff — they go to the bathroom, fly around a little bit. This cycle can go on for months."

Unfortunately, Texas bats are facing the deadly threat of white-nose syndrome. The syndrome has caused millions of deaths in bats across North America. The fungus that causes white-nose grows on hibernating bats, acting as a chronic disturbance and possibly causing dehydration.

To help monitor the disease's progression, TPWD wildlife specialists are asking the public to report dead or sick bats



White-tailed deer in the snow.

to wns@tpwd.texas.gov. Be sure to include a general location and, if possible, a photograph.

Kaz's Fearless Forecast

From Page 1B

nesota (8-4) over Syracuse (7-5).

• Cheese-It Bowl—

4:30 p.m. Thursday at Orlando, FL. (ESPN)—Florida State (9-3) over Oklahoma (6-6).

• Alamo Bowl—

8 p.m. Thursday at San Antonio, TX. (ESPN)—Texas (8-4) over Washington (10-2).

• Duke's Mayo Bowl—

11 a.m. Friday at Charlotte, N.C. (ESPN)—North Carolina State (8-4) over Maryland (7-5).

• Sun Bowl—

1 p.m. Friday at El Paso, TX. (CBS)—UCLA (9-3) over Pittsburgh (8-4).

• Gator Bowl—

2:30 p.m. Friday at Jacksonville, FL. (ESPN)—Notre Dame (8-4) over South Carolina (8-4).

• Arizona Bowl—

3 p.m. Friday at Tucson AZ. (ESPN)—Ohio (9-4) over Wyoming (7-5).

• Orange Bowl—

7 p.m. Friday at Miami Gardens, FL. (ESPN)—Tennessee (10-2) over Clemson (11-2).

• Music City Bowl —

11 a.m. Saturday at Nashville, TN. (ABC)—Iowa (7-5) over Kentucky (7-5).

• Sugar Bowl—

11 a.m. Saturday at New Orleans, LA. (ESPN)—Alabama (10-2) over Kansas State (10-3).

• Fiesta Bowl (CFP Semifinal)—

3 p.m. Saturday at Glendale AZ. (ESPN)—Michigan (13-0) over TCU (12-1).

• Peach Bowl (CFP Semifinal)—

7 p.m. Saturday at Atlanta, GA. (ESPN)—Georgia (13-0) over Ohio State (11-1).

• ReliaQuest Bowl—

11 a.m. Monday at Tampa, FL. (ESPN)—Illinois (8-4) over Mississippi State (8-4).

• Citrus Bowl—

Noon Monday at Orlando, FL. (ABC)—LSU (9-4) over Purdue (8-5).

• Cotton Bowl—

Noon Monday at Arlington, TX. (ESPN)—Southern Cal (11-2) over Tulane (11-2).

• Rose Bowl —

4 p.m. Monday at Pasadena, CA. (ESPN)—Penn State (10-2) over Utah (10-3).

PRO PICKS—

Dallas over Tennessee (Thursday Night); Houston over Jacksonville (Upset Special), Arizona over Atlanta, Carolina over Tampa Bay, Detroit over Chicago, Washington over Cleveland, Kansas City over Denver, New York Giants over Indianapolis, New England over Miami, Philadelphia over New Orleans, Baltimore over Pittsburgh, Seattle over NY Jets, San Francisco over Las Vegas, Green Bay over Minnesota, LA Chargers over LA Rams (all Sunday); Cincinnati over Buffalo (Monday Night Upset Special).

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