

# County Record

Vol. 64 No. 28

Distributed FREE in Orange County, Texas

Week of Wednesday, December 6, 2023

## Lawsuits could hold up tax relief

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

Don't spend your big school property tax cut for Christmas, yet. The tax savings, along with a raise in teacher pensions, are on hold because of lawsuits challenging the elections with accusations about voting machines irregularities. State Senator Robert Nichols told a gathering in Orange Tuesday morning the governor cannot certify the election until the lawsuits are resolved. That could take months, which means counties may have to mail out new tax statements with the full appraisal values instead of the \$100,000 homestead exemption on school taxes for homeowners.

The added exemption was set to save individual homeowners hundreds, and

even thousands, of dollars in school taxes during the next two years. Many senior citizens and lower income homeowners saw their school tax bills cut down to zero with the change. Tax payments are due on January 31.

The amendments also included a cost-of-living adjustment for retired teachers that would be their first pension raise in 20 years. The added money has been set to go into January payments. The Texas Legislature approved the increase, but needed voter approval to move the money to cover the raise.

Also, having to recalculate tax bills and mail new statements will cost counties personnel time and postage costs.

TEXAS TAX Page 3A

## Native son returns to lead Crusade for Christ

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

On a stormy night in November 1957, young Gerald Edwards survived a tornado that destroyed the old Stark High field house where he and seven others were after a Carr Junior High football game.

Now, Dr. Gerald Edwards, an esteemed Southern Baptist minister and leader, will recount his survival as one of the testimonies to be heard this weekend during the Christmas Crusade for Christ in the Orange County Expo Center.

Each night will include a meal for fellowship and music from the McNeills, a Christian singing group that performs old-fashioned gospel and hymns, plus contemporary music. Tim Sawyer with McDonald Memorial Baptist in West Orange has been rehearsing a choir of local singers for the event.

The crusade is also sponsoring the Christian Wres-



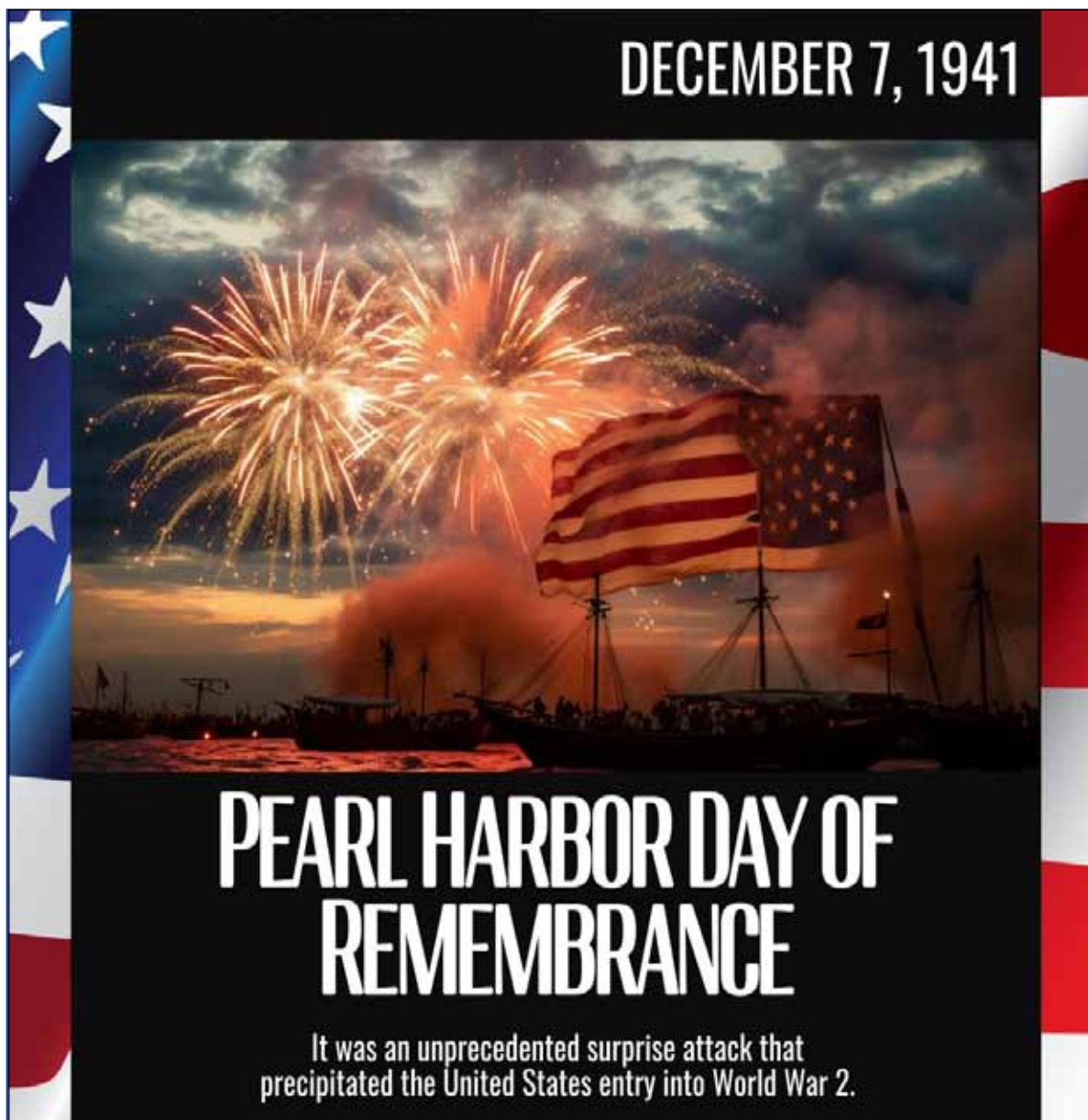
**Dr. Gerald Edwards**

ting Federation for youth and families at First Baptist Bridge City, First Baptist Vidor, and Little Cypress Baptist.

Edwards, who is currently director of missions for the East Texas Baptist Area in Rusk, is bringing the crusade to his hometown.

"Orange County meant a lot to me, even though all my people are gone," he said. He wanted to bring the crusade to Orange as an appreciation for all the love and support from his coaches, teachers, and the community when he was

CHRISTMAS Page 3A



**DEBBY SCHAMBER**  
For The Record

President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared December 7th as "a date which will live in infamy" after Japanese airplanes bombed an American naval base Pearl Harbor killing U.S. personnel.

As a result, on Aug. 23, 1994, United States Congress, designated Dec. 7 of each year as National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. It is a tradition to fly the Flag of the United States at half-staff until sunset in honor of dead patriots.

This week marks 82 years since the history changing day occurred.

The day began like many before it with a few exceptions. At approximately 6 a.m., 183 Japanese planes took off from six aircraft carriers 230 miles north of Oahu. This was just the first wave that would hit Pearl Harbor. At 7:02 a.m., two Army operators at a radar station on Oahu's northern shore detected the fleet of planes approaching. It was



**Cedric Stout, of Bridge City, was assigned to the Utah at the time of the attack.**

disregarded because several American B-17 planes were expected to come in from the U.S. west coast.

A short time later, at 7:15 a.m. 167 more Japanese planes took off and headed for Pearl Harbor. This was the second wave. The naval base was

not put on high alert because the senior commanders felt there was no reason to believe an attack was imminent.

Aircraft were parked wing tip to wing tip. Anti-aircraft guns remained unmanned and ammunition locked up. Also, there were not any torpedo nets protecting the fleet anchorage. Given that it was a Sunday, many officers and crewman were ashore.

At 7:53 a.m., the first wave of Japanese planes reached Pearl Harbor and the battle began.

"It took us a while to wake up to what was really going on," said Joseph Rougeau who recalled the historic event before his death in May 2012. He was a Navy Seaman 1st Class and aboard the USS Medusa which was a fleet repair ship and docked at Pearl Harbor. Rougeau was eating breakfast when the attack started.

The first wave targeted airfields and battleships. The second targets

PERAL HARBOR Page 3A

## Historic houses tour for 'Toy Coffee'

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

Two Victorian era buildings, a home and a tiny school, will be open for tours Thursday, December 7, during the 57th Annual Toy Coffee sponsored by the Service League of Orange. Cheryl Sharpton-Stalaker is chair of the event with Vineen Giordano as co-chair.

Beth and Kenneth Wheeler restored both buildings in the Old Orange Historic District and have the decorated for Christmas for the tours from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is new, unwrapped toy or money donation for the Salvation Army of Orange County to help families in need during the holi-

days.

The Service League of Orange provides a number of charitable, health, and education services to Orange County. The Toy Coffee with its open house has become a local tradition.

The Wheeler's main residence is at 1008 Pine Avenue and was recently approved to receive at Texas Historical Marker. The front porch was featured in 2012 on the cover of This Old House magazine.

The house was built in 1889 for Wolf Bluestein and sold in 1907 to Ben and Martha Stephens. The Stephens family lived there for 75 years. Judge Jerry Pennington did the research on the house and wrote the marker application.

The Wheelers took years restoring and remodeling

the house, with work disrupted by storms. Two giant nutcrackers are standing at the front entrance and the house is full of an eclectic display of Christmas decorations.

The yellow house is a block where century-old live oak trees form a tunnel for the street.

The other place is known as "Miss Laura's School" and was awarded a Texas Historical Marker in 1986 after one restoration. It later became vacant for 20 years and fell into decay. The Wheelers, who walk in the neighborhood, admired the tiny building and tracked down the owner to buy it.

The building started as a stable to the Chandler family, which lived on Pine Avenue at Seventh Street in the

19th Century. In 1896, they added an upstairs to the stable so their daughter, Laura, could have a small classroom to teach. Eventually, the stable was converted to a dwelling with the downstairs having a living area and kitchen. The upstairs classroom became a balcony.

Edna Travis, who was married to dentist Dr. Robert Travis, bought the tiny building in the 1980s. The couple lived in a house on the same block and his dentist office was by the tiny house. They restored it. After their deaths, the house was sold was long vacant.

Beth Wheeler said they have furnished the house with antiques and are holiday decorating with a nod to the school house.



**Texas State News**

# Texas Legislature adjourns special session – leaving vouchers, school safety and elections bills unfinished

**Zach Despart**  
The Texas Tribune

The fourth special legislative session ended Tuesday when the House adjourned without taking action on some key bills the Senate had passed, leaving senators with little choice but to adjourn as well.

It concluded much like it began, with no deal on school vouchers, other Republican priorities sunk by intra-party fighting and a governor unable to broker peace between the feuding heads of the legislative chambers.

The latest casualties were Senate Bill 5, which would spend \$800 million on school safety measures through 2025; and Senate Bill 6, which would change the timeline of a trial after an election contest is filed by a citizen or group. The failure to pass school vouchers, while a victory for Democrats and some rural Republicans, came at the cost of blocking funding that would have also increased school funding and provided bonuses for teachers.

The special session was scheduled to end Wednesday at midnight. But with the House skipping town at 11:30 a.m. without action on pending Senate bills, there was nothing the Senate can do to advance them to the governor's desk. Senators had stood at ease Tuesday morning, pending the action from the lower chamber, and then adjourned for good just before 1 p.m.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who has called for House Speaker Dade Phelan to resign for supporting the impeachment of Attorney



Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan adjourns fourth special session Tuesday.

General Ken Paxton earlier this year, made his frustration with the slow pace of House businesses clear last week.

"Dade Phelan back at it again, blaming his inability to lead as speaker by blaming everyone else for his failings," Patrick said Friday on the social media platform X. He accused the speaker of slow-walking bills the Senate had passed.

Phelan shot back, blasting Patrick, the Senate leader, for backing the chamber's own school safety bill instead of simply passing the House's version, which representatives passed in mid-November.

Phelan said the move, occurring too late in the special session, allowed Patrick to "take to social media, pretending to care about adequately funding school safety while blaming others for the ramifications of his own inactions. This is nothing more than a played-out political stunt that we've seen from him time and time again."

Patrick kept up his criticism Tuesday afternoon, complaining that Phelan

had become "flat-out impossible to work with."

Whether Gov. Greg Abbott will make good on his threat to call a fifth special session — and when that would occur — is unclear. The Legislature has been in session 246 days in 2023, more than any other year since Texas became a state in 1845. Lawmakers receive a daily per diem of \$221 for what is supposed to be a part-time job; most have full-time occupations back home.

Asked if Abbott would call lawmakers back to Austin, the governor's spokesperson Renae Eze said only that the fight for school choice will continue until victory.

"A majority of Texans across our state and from all walks of life support school choice, and Governor Abbott will not rest until school choice is passed," Eze said in a statement. "The Governor will continue to work with Texas legislators and at the ballot box to get school choice for all Texas families."

While honoring a House sergeant-at-arms who had recently competed in a Special Olympics golf

tournament, Phelan quipped Tuesday morning that he hoped members would have a lot of time to golf in the months to come.

The highest-profile item of the session was school vouchers, Abbott's top legislative priority, which would allow parents to use taxpayer dollars to send their kids to private and religious schools. A voucher bill did not reach a floor vote in the spring regular session, as a coalition of Democrats and rural Republicans made clear it lacked the support to pass.

This time, House leadership agreed to allow floor debate on a voucher bill that Killeen Republican Rep. Brad Buckley had shepherded through the education committee, which he chairs. The bill was an omnibus package that also included bonuses for teachers and increased per-student state spending for public school students.

Those sweeteners failed to entice the voucher holdouts, including 21 Republicans, who stripped vouchers from the bill. As Abbott had signaled that he would not sign a bill boosting education spending that did not include a voucher provision, the House did not bother proceeding with the other elements of Buckley's proposal.

The session was not without some legislative victories for Republicans. The chambers approved Senate Bill 3, which would appropriate \$1.5 billion to continue construction of a border barrier between Texas and Mexico as well as fund enhanced immi-

gration efforts. They also approved Senate Bill 4, which would allow Texas police to arrest people who illegally cross the border from Mexico.

Senate Bill 6 was a late-session addition that would have altered the timeline of a trial prompted by a citizen or group filing an election challenge.

It came after six lawsuits were filed in Travis County last week contesting the results of the November election, in which Texas voters approved constitutional amendments that would reduce property taxes, increase pensions for retired teachers and invest billions of dollars in the power grid, water infrastructure, broadband internet and

state parks.

Under current law, the challenges cannot go to trial sooner than one month after filing, which would likely push the implementation of the voter-approved measures past Jan. 1. SB 6 author Sen. Bryan Hughes, R-Mineola, should not be permitted to delay what voters had chosen.

Abbott had not added the item to the special session call, but said he would consider doing so if the two chambers passed a bill.



**THE RECORD**

## 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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## Christmas Crusade From Page 1

growing up. In addition, he wants to share with local residents because they have gone through so many weather disasters in recent years.

His parents were Vernon and Bessie Edwards and his biography says he was saved during a revival at North Orange Baptist Church, his home church growing up.

He recalled the night of the tornado and the protection God gave. He had his father's car parked outside the Tiger Den fieldhouse, which was back of the old baseball field. The game had ended and about 500 kids were in the nearby gym for a homecoming dance.

"A coach's wife called and said the tornado warning had been lifted. That's when it hit," he said. He had been about to go outside to the car and missed being there by seconds. The roof of the fieldhouse blew off and landed on the car. A 2x4 board went through the windshield of the driver's side where he would have been sitting. "My parents thought I had died." The tornado missed the crowded gym.

The next day, he and his fellow class leader, Mike Waters, the son of the pastor of Orange First Baptist, led students in prayers.

Edwards and his fellow Baptists from around the county have been organizing the crusade for six months. But he emphasizes the revival is for all denominations and those seeking to learn more about Jesus.

The event will be Friday, Saturday, and Sunday with a community meal. Churches and groups from his East Texas area will be providing meals like smoked bris-

ket and chicken, chicken and dressing, and chicken spaghetti. A cooking area will be set up in the Expo Center parking lot.

Senior citizens will get a special time to begin at 4:30 p.m. each evening. They will meet in the main auditorium to visit, hear testimonies, and listen to music. There will be drinks, snacks, crafts, and gifts for them.

The meals will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 every day with senior citizens getting to go first in line for the buffet. Special music and testimonies will begin during the mealtime at 6. Meals will end at 6:30. Then the McNeill family will give a concert from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Worship will be held from 7 to 8:30.

On Sunday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., the "Children's Hot Dog Choir" of local will rehearse for a performance. A free pizza supper for youth will be held from 6 to 7 p.m. in a room separate from the worship area.

Youth is a special focus for the Christmas Christian Crusade and the Christian Wrestling Federation is a way to attract them with professional athletes and their antics. The athletes also give testimonies and lead prayers. The free event will include free pizza.

Friday, the wrestlers will be at Little Cypress Baptist Church, 3274 Little Cypress Drive with the bell beginning at 5:45 p.m. The wrestlers will be at First Baptist Bridge City, 200 West Roundbunch Road, with pizza served at 1 p.m. and the bell starting at 1:45 p.m. The group will be at First Baptist Vidor, 350 North Main Street, with pizza at 6 p.m. and the bell at 6:45 p.m.

## Pearl Harbor remembrance From Page 1

were ships and shipyard facilities. Japan modified their shells to use them as bombs and wooden fins were added to torpedoes to keep them from sinking in the shallow harbor mud.

The air raid lasted until 9:45 a.m. McKinnley Bland, of Orange, joined the United States Navy in 1939 at the age of 21 and served for 21 years. Bland passed away in 2017, but not before sharing his story of the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Bland started out as a seaman and retired as Chief Petty Officer. He was assigned to the USS Salt Lake City as a steward.

He was up on deck cooking and serving food to the officers. He could see what was going on outside the ship when the Japanese bombers started bombing Pearl Harbor. He witnessed the attack on the USS Arizona.

The Arizona sustained the most damage in the raid. The ship took four direct hits from Japanese bombers. The last bomb ignited a forward magazine causing a devastating explosion. The ship sank claiming 1,177 lives. It remains in the harbor to this day and serves as memorial to those who lost their lives.

"Some of the men were already lying on the deck already killed," he said. "I'm just a country boy. I ain't never seen nobody killed."

Once the bombing commenced, the Salt Lake City sailed out to sea and stayed there for 110 days. After the 110 days, the Salt Like City was allowed to come back in to Pearl Harbor to restock their supplies, according to archives.

It was a very surreal moment for Rougeau. The normal berth place was along side Fort Island. On Friday, the USS Medusa had to move to allow the USS Utah to have their preferred spot. Had the Utah not been docked there, the Medusa would have probably taken the hit. The Utah was hit by a torpedo at approximately 8:01 a.m. and capsized.

"You could see the smoke and oil on the water on fire," Rougeau said in a previous interview.

Sailors were trying to swim on top of the water even though they had been taught to swim under the water, come up for short breaths and go back under.

"Some were just out of boot camp or panicked, they were just swimming on top sucking in smoke and fire into their lungs," Rougeau said.

Rougeau went on to explain they couldn't send life boats down to the sail-

ors because the boats were made of wood.

The normal berth place was along side Fort Island. Just days before, the USS Medusa had to move to allow the USS Utah to have their preferred spot. Had the Utah not been docked there, the Medusa would have probably taken the hit. The Utah was hit by a torpedo at approximately 8:01 a.m. and capsized.

Cedric Stout, of Bridge City, was assigned to the Utah at the time of the attack. Stout was killing time looking out the porthole after breakfast.

"I saw all the commotion going on and thought, somebody's having some fun. But then a bullet went phew, right over the top of my head and I knew it wasn't no fun!" he said in a previous interview. "Almost immediately, torpedoes struck the port side of the ship and the superior officers were telling everyone to abandon ship, so I made it topside as quickly as possible."

At the hatch, Stout saw his shipmates being cut down as soon as they got up there, so Stout said he decided to hold back.

"When it became apparent that the Utah was going to roll over, we decided our chances were better dodging bullets than staying aboard to drown," Stout said. "We ran to the ropes that held the Utah at dock, slid down to the mooring, made our way to the island and scrambled for cover."

A sailor who had run in the other direction became trapped in the ship's bough when it overturned. He had a metal pipe he would hit against the ship to let people know he was there. He did that for seven days before being found when someone heard the banging. A hole was cut out of the hull to set him free, dehydrated, but alive, according to Stout.

Fifty four sailors remain entombed in the USS Utah, according to archives.

Eight battle ships are damaged and two of them sunk. Three light cruisers, three destroyers and three smaller vessels are lost along with 188 aircraft. The USS Arizona and the USS Utah were left where they sank and stand as memorials so that all will remember the fate of the crew that were claimed by the sea. The Arizona continues to leak oil from its hull and it is theorized that when the last living survivor from the Arizona dies, the oil will stop leaking.

The USS Oklahoma was damaged beyond repair. The ship took five torpedoes and capsized. Four hundred and twenty nine sailors were lost or are missing.

## Texas Tax Relief From Page 1

According to Texas law, a lawsuit challenge to an election cannot be heard in court earlier than 45 days after an election, or later than 180 days after the election. The election was on November 7.

The legislature is currently in a special session that is set to end on Wednesday. Members are working to see if they can quickly get a bill approved and to the governor that would change the time wait for hearings on elections.

Currently, the proposed requirement is for courts to hear an election challenge within 50 days of the election. That would put the hearings at the end of December.

The Texas Tribune, a non-profit online publication specializing in coverage of

state government, reports at least six lawsuits have been filed in counties of Texas. One was filed in state district court in Travis County, which includes Austin.

The Tribune said the lawsuits have similar working and two were filed by Jarrett Woodward, an activist with MyPillow CEO Mike Lindell in claiming widespread conspiracy theories about voting that have been disproved in courts across the country.

The Texas Secretary of State's office certified all voting machines and procedures across the state for the November election. The position is filled by the appointment of the governor and confirmed by the state senate. Jane Nelson holds the position now.

# Merry Christmas Crusade for CHRIST

## December 8-10, 2023

## Music Beginning @ 4:30 pm

### Orange County Convention & Expo Center

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Director & Evangelist  
Dr. Gerald Edwards



Music by  
THE MCNEILLS



The Orange County Christmas Crusade for Christ is a prayerfully planned, coordinated event by area churches. Dr. Gerald Edwards, Director and Evangelist for the Crusade said, "It is a Southern Baptist Convention backed effort." "However," he said, "area Orange County churches and pastors have been involved in the past few months in this Crusade effort and have felt a spirit of love and excitement about this non-denominational worship and praise event."

Edwards stated that "the purpose of this meeting was "three-fold: to honor Orange County (a place where he was born and lived), to win the "lost"; and to experience spiritual renewal and personal revival for Peace, Power and Purpose for life now and later!" This is a great step of faith by Orange County churches and pastors. They are very supportive of the Crusade. Key Bible verses for this effort are: Ephesians 3:20-21, "Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think..." and 2 Corinthians 5:21 "For He hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him."

This effort includes successful athletes and musicians who will share, their personal testimonies. This includes the McNeills singing group and the great "Christian Wrestlers" from Greenville, Texas. One such outstanding athlete that will be coming is Pat Nelson. Pat was on the 1961 All-District Team as a Split End. Pat went on to Texas A&M on a full scholarship.

We want you to come! Bring your friends and neighbors each evening at 5:30 PM for free, wonderful meals. We are placing a big emphasis on our Senior Adults each evening at 4:30 PM. We are reaching out to our local High Schools and Junior High Schools of Little Cypress-Mauriceville, West Orange-Stark, Bridge City, Orangefield, and Vidor. The Christian Wrestlers will speak to our youth when they attend the free "Gigantic Pizza Meals" in the local churches Christian Life Centers.

Edwards expressed his personal feelings as follows: "Orange County, you have experienced much trauma in recent years! We love you. I grew up here, I was born here! Saved here at North Orange Baptist Church under the Rev. C. W. Williams. I Quarter-backed for the Orange Lutchter Stark Tigers football team in 1958-1961. We are so appreciative of friends, coaches, teachers, pastors and deacons, and church members." However, he continued to say, "This effort is not about us. It is about Christ and His Glory." I am looking forward to seeing you at the Convention Center December 8, 9, and 10.

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## From the Creaux's Nest

### PEARL HARBOR DAY AND CEDRIC REMEMBERED

It's been 82 years since the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. That day is one of the most memorable events in my life. I had a cousin who was injured and stayed in hospital months only to come home and be killed in a farm accident. The attack led to the United States being involved in World War II. We listened to President Franklin D. Roosevelt's address to the American people on a neighbor's radio. "This day will live in infamy," he said. From that day on our lives changed. Everything was rationed, from tires to soap. Neighborhoods planted Victory Gardens. A community near what is now Bridge City, planted a 60 acre garden. Everyone helped, everyone shared in the harvest. Today the community is called Victory Gardens. Everyone helped gather scrap iron for the war effort. Everything from foil gum wrappers to tin roofing went on the scrap pile. We had air raid alerts where everyone had to turn off their lights. No problem for us because we didn't have lights anyway. The entire community would be pitch black. Millions of American youngsters went off to war and over a million were killed before President Harry Truman ended the war with the Atomic Bomb that brought Japan to its knees. Locally, I'm proud to be a friend of one of the Pearl Harbor survivors, Cedric Stout, 103, of Bridge City, was on the Utah when it was hit. Besides all his other lovely daughters, he is the father of our longtime friend, Darlene Montagne. I spoke with Cedric and Cherry lately and they are both hanging in there with some good household help. Cedric is the only known survivor in the area. Orange played an important part in the war effort through its shipyards and consolidated steel mill. Workers came from all over the country and many stayed after the war to marry local girls and raise their families. During those shipyard days, "Rosie the Riveter" came into existence because of the shortage of men workers. Orange grew from a sleepy town of 4,200 to over 70,000 people. Many today are natives of Orange County because of Pearl Harbor and the war that followed and their parents choosing to stay in the area. The years have flown by but we still have some who recall that dreadful day. In just a few years however, the folks of that historical day will have come, lived and gone away.

#### CONDOLENCES

We are saddened by the death of Jo Ann Huard, who passed peacefully on December 2, 2023, just hours before her 91st birthday. A former Bridge City resident she had resided at Pelican Bay for the past seven years. She was survived by her only sibling Phyllis Dunn, four children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Our condolences to her family and friends. May she rest in peace.

#### TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2013

**Gone But Not Forgotten:** We were saddened to learn of the death of Joyce Poche' Bernard, 93, who passed away on her birthday, Nov. 28. She was with us exactly 93 years. For several years Joyce wrote a column for the "Opportunity Valley News," and some of her articles also appeared in "The Record." Joyce was one of the few people I've known who was from Poche' Bridge, a community near St. Martinsville, Louisiana. If you ever traveled the Interstate to Baton Rouge you may recall the old Cajun house on the right near Breaux Bridge. The Civil War home belonged to Joyce's grandparents. I enjoyed visiting with her and stopped at her picket fenced home on Holly Street, Brunner Addition, in West Orange from time to time. She was such a lovely lady. She and Paul Bernard had nine children, 25 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren and 13 great-great-grandchildren. Service was held Thursday, Dec. 5.\*\*\* Clinton Robert Stanley, 60, died Dec. 6.\*\*\*Melbourne "Mic" Jones, 74, died Dec. 7.\*\*\* Joseph W. McClelland, 66, died Dec. 9. He was a retired lab supervisor for DuPont.\*\*\*Bert D. Flickinger, 63, died Sunday, Dec. 9, at Baptist Hospital Orange, after an illness. He was owner of Flickinger Insurance Agency and was active in civil and community activities.\*\*\*Thomas "T.J." Permenter, 72, died Dec. 6.\*\*\*Robert Thomas "Bobby" Jones, 68, died Dec. 8.\*\*\*Thomas G. Jacobs, 78, died Dec. 3.\*\*\*Bobby Ray Thomas, 65, died Dec. 3.\*\*\*W.D. "Bill" Payne, 89, died Dec. 4.\*\*\*The West Orange-Stark Mustangs advance to play the Carthage Bulldogs after squeezing by Jasper in a 18-16 win. It was the kind of game that gives coaches heartburn. Coach Cornell Thompson said before the game, "To win in the playoffs you have to have a running game." If the Mustangs don't find their running game it could be a long night. \*\*\*\*About the time I was

starting to believe Capt. Chuck Uzzel had lost his mojo and was unable to kill any ducks, he showed up with a mess of freshly killed ones. He was running late with his fowl gift but we were happy to get them. (Editor's note: I haven't had wild duck for Christmas since 2021.)\*\*\*\*I was thinking about Judge Courtney's twins, due on December 27. That happens to be the birthday of the best criminal attorney and defender of the accused I know, Attorney Sharon Bearden, who celebrates on that day. \*\*\*\*On Dec. 5, our buddy Rene' Hanks, mayor of Starks, married to the beautiful Lucy, celebrates.

#### 22 Years Ago-2001

December 7 marks the anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. In 2001, the local chapter of the Pearl Harbor survivors association lists three veterans still living in Orange County. These three veterans were on the island between 7:50 a.m. and 9:45 a.m. on December 7, 1941. Navy veteran Cedric Stout, 80, was on the USS Utah when torpedoes and bombs struck the ship. (Editor's note: Stout is now 103-years-old and lives with his wife Cherry in Bridge City.)\*\*\*\*Navy veteran J.L. Rougeau, of Mauriceville, was aboard the Medusa; Army veteran, Ervin Brody, 79, of Bridge City, was in his barracks when Wheeler Field was attacked, fortunately Brody's barrack was spared.\*\*\*\*The Bridge City Cardinals defeat Mexia 33-14 at SFA in Nacogdoches, in Class 3-A Division I, Region III finals. Senior Luke Wolford had three interceptions and threw a 57 yard touchdown pass to Luther Sanders. Runner Matt Peebles ran for three TD's. Dwayne Breaux gained 82 yards and now has 1,029 yards on 170 carries for the season so far. Bridge City rolled up 401 total yards against Mexia. This week, the Cardinals travel to A&M's Kyle Field, to face the 13-0 Sinton Pirates in the semi-finals. The Cards and the Pirates are only two of the four remaining teams; a win by either will send them to the state championship game. This is the farthest the Cards have gone since the 1966 state championship. This week the Bridge City residents will pack up the babies and grab the old ladies, everyone is headed to Kyle Field for the biggest shootout in 35 years. Last one out, turn out the lights.

#### 47 Years Ago-1976

Don Burgess offers reward for the return of his small white terrier dog lost around Chives apartment. If you know Don don't bet on it being much of a reward, maybe a coke and a bag of peanuts. \*\*\*\*Frank Hryhorchuk is chairman of Bridge City Christmas Basket committee. \*\*\*\*Ace and Jo Amodeo hosted the monthly supper club. The group left the Amodeo's after a nice get-together for Patrizi's Italian Restaurant. The group also celebrated Louis Dugas' birthday, Dec.12. The Ramsey's, Conway's, Pasternak's, Bill and Martha Hughes, Corky and Betty Harmon, James and Janet Fontenot, Roy and Phyllis Dunn, Beth Dugas and others finished the night at the Pasternak's lovely home in Beaumont.\*\*\*\*A party hosted by Betty Harmon at her home drew more than 200 ladies.\*\*\*\*Roy Dunn was awarded a special plaque from the Junior Football League. \*\*\*\*Top country songs are No. 1, "Thinkin' of a Rendezvous" by Johnny Duncan; No. 2, "She Never Knew Me" by Don Williams; No. 3, "Good Woman Blues" by Mel Tillis; No. 4, "Lawdy Miss Clawdy" by Mickey Gilley; and No. 5, "Hillbilly Heart" by Johnny Rodriguez.

#### A FEW HAPPENINGS

Heavy downpours messed up some Christmas events on Thursday and Friday, but the storms moved out by Saturday morning, allowing the Gum Drop Shop in Orange and the night parades in Bridge City and Orange to go on schedule. In Bridge City, Mike Messer was the parade marshal. Boy Scouts from Troop 290 marched and 2023 Citizen of the Year Cil Dixon was featured. Mayor David Rutledge will announce the parade winners later this month at a Bridge City Chamber gathering. The parade is a true community event with the chamber, city, and school district all pitching in.\*\*\*\*Over in Orange, Mike Manshack and his ham radio operators were at the Gum Drop Shop event letting kids talk to Santa through radio. Cathy Manshack had her crafts there.\*\*\*\*After the parade, Victorian Santa came from the Stark House to help light the giant tree and talk to children. Word is tall Santa was Tad McKee, president of the Stark Foundation. His daughter, Emily Mellen, Emily's mother-in-law, Chrisleigh Dal Sasso, and Tad's wife Thereze had their photo made with Santa. Buddy the Elf, aka Adam Conrad, was showing his antics all day and posing for pictures and was a kid's favorite. He even sat in Santa's lap for a picture. The Grinch and Frosty were also spotted. The Kiwanis Club sponsored the parade again, the 74th Orange Christmas Parade.\*\*\*Cowboy Church won the Judges Choice award, with the Horseman Store winning the commercial category, Life Church Orange with Matt Chandler winning the non-profit division, and LC-M Cosmetology taking first for schools.\*\*\*\*Brad and Terri Childs played Santa at Orange City Hall on Thursday night where lots of families showed up despite bad weather. Childs is a city councilor and owner of the Childs Ace Hardware. His store had a float in the parade Saturday. Unfortunately, a thief, or more than one, stole an heirloom large Santa wooden cutout from the float overnight while it was parked at the store. The Santa belonged to a store employee. Father Jim Sichko, who grew up in Orange and is now a papal missionary, heard about the theft and is offering a \$500 reward for its return.\*\*\*\*Carol Sims was celebrated her 80th birthday with a party at the VFW given by husband, Robert. Joan Haddock came back to town for the event and got to catch up with old friends. Guests included Beth and Ken-

neth Wheeler, Roderick Robertson, Krispen Walker, and Margaret Sells.\*\*\*\*Orange County Republican Party chair Leo LaBouve has drawn a challenger with Cheryl Warren officially filing to run in the March primary races. The local Republican Party has been split over actions by Texas Speaker of the House Dade Phelan, who represents Orange County in District 21. The local party censured Phelan for working with Democrats. David Covey of Mauriceville, a former Orange County chair, is challenging Phelan in the primary. Another local race that is heating up is for Precinct 2 constable.\*\*\*The Precinct 4 constable race took an unusual turn when incumbent, Matt Ortego, had Vidor police called. His attorney reports he is now in a mental health care facility.\*\*\*\*Chris and Kayla Clark had a son last week, Beck Christopher Clark. Grandparents include Scott and Joline Clark.\*\*\*\*Keith and Cinda Perry celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary with a trip to New Orleans, staying at the same hotel where they honeymooned.\*\*\*\*Tony and Lynne Theriot celebrated 42 years.\*\*\*\*Longtime friends Jeannie McDaniel, Sandra Gross, Carolyn Curran, Bobby Jo Howeth, and Kay Jones had a Christmas get-together.\*\*\*\*Della Gallien and daughter Rita Monson took a weekend trip to Natchitoches, Louisiana, for the famous Christmas festival. They probably didn't know it, but former local resident Doyle Morse, who now lives in Tyler, was also there.\*\*\*\*The old fisherman Robert Vail stopped by to ask if we wanted to share some redfish with them. What a treat. Betty has been facing some health issues but they are facing them together and seem to be winning.\*\*\*\*Phillip Welch, Sterling and mom Shanna left Galveston Saturday on a cruise. Shanna lets the boys do their thing while she just enjoys the trip.\*\*\*\*Over the years Orange County folks have learned about Gulf Coast Cardiology Group in Port Arthur. The group consists of four heart specialists; personally, Dr. Morbia has kept me heart healthy for 30 years. This week I'm going in for a six month checkup. I will try to get his oatmeal recipe. If it's time for you to get a heart check I recommend Gulf Coast Cardiology. Chances are you will run into someone you know. \*\*\*\*Debbi Schamber has written a great historical story about Pearl Harbor Day. It's a good read and worth saving.

#### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

A few folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days. Dec. 6: Debbie Bishop, Cheryl Jones Mayme Bock, Richard Briggs.\*\*\*\*Dec. 7: Jim Keith, Buddy Sheppard, Randy Philpott.\*\*\*\*Dec. 8: Channing Larkin, C.R. Dick Davis, Samantha Peveto.\*\*\*\*Dec. 9: Barry McKenzie, Bobby Couthran, Sharon Johnson.\*\*\*\*Dec. 10: Michelle Watson, Sean Ureta, Monica Placette, Cindy Briggs.\*\*\*\*Dec. 11: Tara Fountain, Cody Caples, Jo Lynn Mott, Kristine Cortez.\*\*\*\*Dec. 12: George Sehon, Lucy Hanks, Scott Derouen, Zackery Anderson, Joel Fruge.\*\*\*\*Birthdays this past week included Christopher Thibodeaux, Barry Burton, Madison Peveto, Matt Purgahn, Bridgette Collins, Teigin Armstrong, Linda Melton, Earl Gage, Steve Johnson, Chuck Prejean, Gerald Burleigh, Takelulia Petterway, and Charlotte Alford. (To post a birthday or anniversary (Free of Charge) Email: therecordlive.com or call 409-886-7183.)

#### CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Otis Dartez and Cedric Simoneaux, on Saturday, went to da gulf course dem. Dartez, him stood over his tee shot on da 450-yard, 18-hole, for wat seemed like an eternity. Dartez him, wagged, looked up, looked down, waggled again but didn't start his back swing him.

Finally, his exasperated partner Simoneaux axe, "Wat da hell is taking you so long hanh?"

Dartez answer, "Well, my wife, Lula Mae, is watching me from da clubhouse balcony her. I want to make a perfect shot me."

His companion Simoneaux say, "Otis, you don't got a chance in hell you, of hitting her from here."

#### C'EST TOUT Liz Chaney's New Book Out

Former Representative Liz Cheney made a bleak prediction about the future of the U.S. if former President Donald Trump is reelected in 2024. Cheney, a Republican from Wyoming, emerged as one of Trump's most vocal critics in Congress following the riot at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. Cheney was the vice chair of the House committee that investigated the former president's role in the riot, during which hundreds of Trump supporters stormed the Capitol in an effort to stop the certification of the 2020 election. In Cheney's new book, *Oath and Honor: A Memoir and a Warning*, which was released on Tuesday, she writes about the upcoming presidential election. "We will be voting on whether to preserve our republic," she wrote. "As a nation, we can endure damaging policies for a four-year term, but we cannot survive a president willing to terminate our Constitution."\*\*\*\*Thanks for your time. Please shop our family of advertisers. Take care and God bless.





## Deaths & Memorials

### Jo Ann Huard, 90, Beaumont

Josephine Ann "Jo Ann" Oubre Huard passed peacefully on December 2, 2023 just hours before her 91st birthday. She will be remembered for her vibrant personality, her love of gardening and her love of family and friends. Jo Ann was born in Port Arthur, Texas on December 3, 1932 to Whitney and Amy Oubre. She attended Bishop Byrne High School and was a loving mother to her four children, nine grandchildren and fourteen great grandchildren.



Jo Ann Oubre Huard

bre Dunn and her husband Roy of Bridge City; daughters Diane Braquet Bertrand and husband Roland of LaBelle; Melissa Braquet Womble and husband Bobby of New Braunfels; Brenda Braquet Wilber and husband Scott of Hamshire; and her son John Kyle Braquet and wife Belinda of Willis.

She is preceded in death by her parents Whitney Oubre and Amy Decuir Oubre, husbands Calvin Braquet, Buddy Wilber, James Brabham and Claude Huard.

Cremation of her earthly body will be directed by Broussard Mortuary.

A family memorial service will be held at a later date.

A special thanks to the staff at Pelican Bay Assisted Living Community and Gentiva Hospice for loving and caring for our mother.

Memorial Donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association or to a charity of your choice.

In her later years, she married Claude Huard. They enjoyed a vibrant life of retirement in Hot Springs Arkansas where they were active in the Elks Lodge. Jo Ann lived her life to the fullest. She learned to paint and play the clarinet after retirement. Additionally, she served on the welcome committee for her Hot Springs community, was active in her Episcopalian Church and maintained a beautifully landscaped yard. Upon the death of her beloved husband in 2015, Jo Ann returned to Texas to be near to her children.

She is survived by her sister, Phyllis Ou-

### Kathleen "Kathy" Longron Block, 72, Orange

Kathleen "Kathy" Longron Block, 72, of Orange, Texas, passed away on November 28, 2023, at Harbor Hospice in Beaumont, Texas.

There will be a graveside memorial at a later date with Brother Keith Pennington officiating.

Born in Orange, Texas, on March 4, 1951, she was the daughter of Sidney Howard Longron and Elva Jane Granger Gordy. Kathy was a very caring and loving woman who adored her family. She enjoyed going to the casino and going dancing. She absolutely loved having big family gatherings. Kathy will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved her.



Kathleen Longron Block

Faryn Block of Orange; her "Daddy", Sidney Longron; her brothers, Todd Longron and wife, Judy, who she was so proud to have in her life for both always leading by example, Terry Longron and Barbara Waters of Orangefield, Edgar Longron and wife, Donna of Buna, and Kaleb Longron of Orange; her sisters, Sydney Longron of Orangefield, Dolly Longron of Orange, and Gwen Longron and

Richard Jones, Sr. of Orange; her 7 grandchildren including Ty Wiles, who she raised for 18 years; her 6 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews whom she loved dearly.

Serving as honorary pallbearers are Patricia "Cricket" Williams and Debbie Lou Currie.

The family would like to extend a special thank you to the Harbor Hospice nurses and doctors, our "angels", and to Southwest Home Health in Bridge City, and to her sisters who were her caregivers every day: Sydney, Dolly, and Gwen.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Charles Burch; her mother, Janie Gordy; her sister, Tammy Longron; her grandson, Chaz Block; her nephew, Jonathon Jordan; and her best friend and aunt, Shirley Mae Longron Whisenhunt.

She is survived by her sons, Ed Block and wife, Tammy of Orangefield, Chris Block and Robyn Shugart of Orange, and Daryn Block of Orange; her daughter,

### Durham/Ellis Pecans and Walnuts A Christmas Holiday Favorite For Dale

Wesley United Methodist Church will be selling this years crop of Durham/Ellis pecans and walnuts for their Annual Fund Raiser with 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.

### Doiron named All-American

Staff Report For The Record

Bridge City graduate Taryn Doiron has earned First Team All-America volleyball honors from the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III (NJCAA DIII). Doiron is a freshman at Dallas College Eastfield.

Taryn is the setter for the Harvester Bees at Eastfield. She put up some impressive statistics in her first year with Eastfield by assisting on 736 points, making 259 digs, and serving 48 aces.

In all but one of her 35 matches this past season Doiron recorded double figures in assists. She had a season high 37 in Eastfield's four-set win during their national semifinal win.

Five times Taryn recorded 30 or more assists in matches and had nine dou-



Taryn Doiron graduated from Bridge City High School a year ago and has become a star setter for the Dallas College Eastfield volleyball team

ble-doubles in assists and digs. Her season best of 14 digs she achieved twice, and she ripped off four aces in two other matches.

Eastfield made good use of Doiron's marvelous contributions going undefeated 35-0 to win the program's second national championship. The Harvester Bees dropped only six sets during the season to become the first NJCAA DIII program to win every match on their way to a national title.

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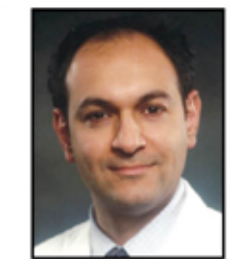


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### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of **LINDA GAYE TIBBITTS**, Deceased, were issued on the **NOVEMBER 27, 2023, in Cause No. P19830**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **KENT DAVID TIBBITTS and CHRIS NEMON TIBBITTS**.

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

c/o:

**KENT DAVID TIBBITTS**  
761 FM 114  
DeKalb, TX 75559

**CHRIS NEMON TIBBITTS**  
331 Shadowdale Street  
Bridge City, TX 77611

Dated the 27th day of November, 2023.

*Tommy Gunn*  
Tommy Gunn

Attorney for:  
**KENT DAVID TIBBITTS and CHRIS NEMON TIBBITTS**  
State Bar No.: 08623700  
202 S. Border Street  
Orange, TX 77630  
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### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **STERLING HENRY SIMONEAUX**, Deceased, were issued on **NOVEMBER 27, 2023, in Cause No. P19848**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **HAZEL HEATHER SIMONEAUX**.

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

c/o:

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

DATED the 28th day of November, 2023.

*Paul M. Fukuda*  
Paul M. Fukuda

Attorney for:  
**Hazel Heather Simoneaux**  
State Bar No.: 00789915  
312 Border Street  
Orange, TX 77630  
Phone:(409)883-4357  
Email: pfukudalawoffice@yahoo.com

### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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

**JAMES EDWARD MEYERS, Deceased**  
Cause No. P19868  
in County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP in this estate on the 28th day of NOVEMBER, 2023, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of JAMES EDWARD MEYERS, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

The court may act on this application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse, 801 W. Division., Orange, Texas 77630.

All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before this Honorable Court by filing a written contest or answer to this Application should they desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention or response in writing with the County Clerk of Orange County, Texas.

Given under my hand and the seal of the County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas at the office of the Orange County Clerk in Orange, Texas on 29th day of NOVEMBER, 2023.

**BRANDY ROBERTSON,**  
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas

By: *Danielle Barrow*, Deputy

Danielle Barrow

### CITATION BY PUBLICATION

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

**MARY MARGARET PAYNE, Deceased**  
Cause No. P19764  
in County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above numbered and entitled estate filed A COUNTER-APPLICATION TO DETERMINE HEIRSHIP in this estate on the 8th day of NOVEMBER, 2023, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of MARY MARGARET PAYNE, Deceased, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

The court may act on this application at any call of the docket on or after 10:00 a.m. on the Monday next after the expiration of 10 days from the date of publication of this citation, at the County Courthouse, 801 W. Division., Orange, Texas 77630.

All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before this Honorable Court by filing a written contest or answer to this Application should they desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention or response in writing with the County Clerk of Orange County, Texas.

Given under my hand and the seal of the County Court at Law, Orange County, Texas at the office of the Orange County Clerk in Orange, Texas on 8th day of NOVEMBER, 2023.

**BRANDY ROBERTSON,**  
County Clerk, Orange County, Texas

By: *Danielle Barrow*, Deputy

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# Orangefield captures trophy at Big Sandy

DAN PERRINE  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

The Orangefield Bobcats took home the championship trophy the first weekend of December from Big Sandy. The Bobcats played the host school the Big Sandy Wildcats ranked fourteenth in the state for class 2A on Saturday and won 36-26 to be the champions.

The game proved to be a battle of two stout defenses as open shots were hard to come by. The Bobcats were led in scoring by Zane Wrinkle with 20 points, 5 rebounds and 3 steals. Kadyn Rucker also played well, turning in 8 points, 6 rebounds and 4 blocks. Kane Smith had a great game contributing 4 points, 4 rebounds, 7 assists and 5 steals. Jaden Scales pitched in with an impressive 6 rebounds from his point guard spot.

Orangefield wrapped up pool play on Friday to earn a spot in the championship game of the tournament on Saturday. The Bobcats took a 74-63 win over the Onalaska Wildcats. Leading the Bobcats in scoring were Jaden Scales with 34 points including hitting five of nine from beyond the arc and Zane Wrinkle with 30 points after hitting six three-pointers. Scales contributed 4 assists and 2 steals while Wrinkle pitched in 11 rebounds, 6 assists and 3 steals. Kane

Smith had a well-rounded game with 5 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists and 3 steals.

Orangefield was able to tally two victories on Thursday in the tournament. The Bobcats played Lake Houston in their first game and came away with a 61-53 victory. Zane Wrinkle was a top performer for the Bobcats in the game with 24 points, 8 rebounds, and 4 assists. Griffin Thomas was second high scorer for Orangefield registering 18 points while grabbing 4 rebounds, handing out 3 assists, and making 2 steals. Kane Smith had a strong game adding 12 points, 7 rebounds and 4 assists.

The second game of the first day of the tournament saw the Bobcats defeat Splendora 48-40. Zane Wrinkle was again the top scorer for Orangefield with 22 points to go with 7 rebounds and 2 steals. Jaden Scales followed with 19 points, 4 rebounds and 2 steals. Kane Smith and Mason Manning did good work on the glass chipping in with 5 rebounds apiece.

The Orangefield Bobcats improved their record to 4-1 on Tuesday, November 28. The Bobcats doubled the score over Beaumont Kelly with a 73-36 win at home.

Sophomore Griffin Thomas was the leading scorer for Orangefield with 23 points including

five three-pointers. Zane Wrinkle led in rebounds with 13 and tallied 19 points for the Bobcats.

Kane Smith contributed 8 points, 8 assists, 4 rebounds, and made 4 steals in the victory. Jaden Scales also scored 8 points to go along with his 3 assists, 2 rebounds, and a steal. Kadyn Rucker rejected four shots by Kelly.

The Orangefield Bobcats went 4-0 during the weekend tournament bringing their overall record to 8-1.

Orangefield will be back on the court Thursday as they are the host of the Bill Tenneson Basketball Tournament the second weekend of December.



The Orangefield Bobcats won all four of their games to be the champions of the tournament played in Big Sandy.

## Orange County basketball teams top tournaments

DAN PERRINE  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

Little Cypress Mauriceville took third place in the Best of the Bay Tournament held in Aransas Pass the first weekend in December. The Bears beat West Oso 59-46 to grab the third place trophy.



Alantheon Winn scored 20 points to lead LCM to a win to help capture third place in the Best of the Bay Tournament at Aransas Pass.

and never really challenged the Bulldogs in a 73-45 blowout at the Dr. Pauline Colburn Hargrove Gymnasium on Tuesday, November 28.

It was pretty much complete domination by Nederland. The Bulldogs out-rebounded Little Cypress Mauriceville and had a much better night shooting from long range hitting a dozen three-point baskets.

LCM Coach Brad Jeffcoat summarized the outcome of the game. "We got whipped today. Everything we do starts with playing good defense and getting rebounds and running. We didn't play any defense at all. The Bulldogs scored inside, they scored outside, and once they got rolling we had no answer for them," Jeffcoat responded.

Nederland scored the first six points to start the game before LCM's Alantheon Winn got the Bears on the board. The Bulldogs added to their advantage before Winn put back a rebound for his second

The home court did not benefit Little Cypress Mauriceville in its game with the visiting Nederland Bulldogs last week. The Bears fell behind early

TOURNAMENT Page 4B

### Roberts Christmas Deals!

<p><b>2023 FORD ESCAPE ACTIVE</b> Oxford White, Ebony Interior, FWD, Automatic Trans., Stock No. 8849 MSRP: \$30,840 <b>\$29,794</b> ROBERTS SAVINGS <b>-\$1,046</b></p>	<p><b>2024 FORD BRONCO Sport Big Bend</b> Shadow Black, Ebony Interior, 4WD, Auto., Stock No. 8854 MSRP: \$33,955 <b>\$33,597</b> ROBERTS SAVINGS <b>-\$358.00</b></p>	<p><b>2024'S ON THE LOT! 2024 FORD EDGE SEL</b> Rapid Red Metallic Tinted Clearcoat, Ebony, AWD, Auto., Stk #8845 MSRP: \$43,070 <b>\$39,974</b> TOTAL DISCOUNTS <b>-\$3,096</b></p>
<p><b>2023 FORD F-150 XL</b> Oxford White, Black Interior, 4X2, Auto., V-6 Engine, Stock No. 8799 MSRP: \$48,195 <b>\$43,844</b> ROBERTS SAVINGS <b>-\$4,351</b></p>	<p><b>2023 FORD F-150 XL</b> Oxford White, Black Interior, 4X2, Automatic, V6, Stock No. 8798 MSRP: \$48,195 <b>\$43,864</b> ROBERTS SAVINGS <b>-\$4,331</b></p>	<p><b>2023 FORD F-150 XL</b> Iconic Silver Metallic, Black Interior, 4X4, Automatic, V8, Stock No. 8817 MSRP: \$54,420 <b>\$50,967</b> TOTAL DISCOUNTS <b>-\$2,453</b></p>

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## FISHING

# Lessons learned in warmer months, spells winter success

## OUTDOORS

**Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record**

**Chuck Uzzle**

It's a common known fact that we have some of the craziest weather in the world here in Texas, especially on the coast. December, January and February have historically been some of our worst weather months, the conditions at this time of the year coupled with low water temps can make it down right miserable. During these periods the average fisherman may defer from the outdoors to a warmer climate by the fire thinking that the fishing won't be worth the effort, big mistake.

For many years fishermen on the lower coast have known what kind of magic can happen when the mercury dips and the crowds go somewhere else for the winter. This kind of thinking is gaining popularity on the upper coast every year and the fish that are being caught during this time of the year can be eye poppingly large to say the least. As an added plus once you find one of these big fish you can usually find another one in the same area, these fish will congregate together and sometimes be there in large numbers. Big concentrations of fish can key in on small areas so be sure to thoroughly fish an area before giving up.

A couple of years ago on Sabine lake I came across one of these situations where the fish were piled up in a small drain, every cast was viciously attacked by a stud trout or oversized redfish. It was 2 hours of heaven, all you could ever ask for and more. The big fish were keying in on a small depression where two small ditches drained out of the marsh. The water was warmer coming out of the marsh and the depression offered up some refuge from the outgoing tide, the bait just kept pouring into the strike zone and the big fish were just killing everything that swam.

The small areas that most fishermen find holding good numbers of trout in the winter are usually found in the summer. Waders who are observant make notes of areas that should hold fish, piles of shell or oyster, ditches, transition areas from one type of bottom to the next are all excellent places to make mental notes. Summer water conditions are usually clearer than winter so you have the added bonus of sighting areas to fish. Winter and spring months on the upper coast usually mean heavy run off and off colored conditions, homework and notes taken during the summer can really come in handy when you are faced with bad water conditions.

Calcasieu Lake also has it's own nuances during this time of the year and they are very similar to Sabine for the most part. One big difference between the two sister lakes is the prevalent reef structure caused by oysters on Calcasieu, this body of water is full of oysters and those are trout goldmines if you know where to find them. In the winter if you pay attention you can watch the oyster boats comb Calcasieu, they are doing nothing but giving away very valuable information to the fishermen. I have marked some great structure by hawking these guys on bad weather days or days when the fish weren't to cooperative. That little bit of effort translated into numerous productive open water areas that I fish to this day. You can learn plenty if you just watch sometimes. The one thing that you cannot get enough of is learning what window of opportunity works best, take the tides and temperatures into account as well as the feed times and get out there among them.

You can't catch big fish from your cozy couch. Remember "You won't know unless you go".

## Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

**• Sabine Lake**

GOOD. 74 degrees. Sabine Lake continues to boast limits of trout with some slot and bull redfish schooling under the birds in the morning. Fish off the bottom in the morning with 3/4 ounce silver and gold spoons, or 3/4 ounce glo chartreuse 5 inch plastics. Trout are good off the rocks on the northside of Pleasure Island with live shrimp under a popping cork or 5 inch glo chartreuse plastics. North Levee continues to produce limits of trout early on topwaters, crankbaits midday, then live shrimp under a popping cork. Trout and redfish are good in the Neches River points, turnarounds, rock piles and buoys on the east and west side of the river using 1/4 ounce jigs with glo chartreuse plastics. Bayou water falling out flushing out the bait and fish. Report by Captain Randy Foreman, Captain Randy's Guide Service Sabine Lake.

**• Bolivar**

GOOD. 60-65 degrees. Fishing has slowed for oversized and slot redfish and smaller sized keeper black drum off the jetties on live shrimp or live mullet under a cork, or mullet off the bottom. Crabs can be caught off the rocks at the jetties. Bull croakers and a few small sand trout in the jetties. Broken bridge and Ferry Landing some keeper speckled trout. The surf of Rollover Bay holding redfish on the bay side and big black drum and bigger sized speckled trout live shrimp, or cut mullet. Report by Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

**• Trinity Bay**

GOOD. 60 degrees. The upper Northwest region of Trinity Bay has been good for speckled trout and redfish. Dow's Reef and the pier pilings when the winds are favorable have been good for speckled trout. Jack's Pocket is fair


**The Record's Capt. Chuck Uzzle displays a nice Sabine Lake redfish.**

for catches of trout from the mouth of the Trinity river and north. Best catches on live shrimp and soft plastics. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Redfish in the bayous along wind protected shorelines in 1-4 feet of water when the wind is gusty under a popping cork with live shrimp or gulp plastics. Trout are holding tight in warmer water on 2-4 feet flats with a current being caught on live or imitation shrimp. Sheepshead are being caught on shallow reefs on live or imitation shrimp on a popping cork. Black drums are abundant on rock structures with live shrimp or gulp on a popping cork. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

**• East Galveston Bay**

FAIR. 58-60 degrees. Those wading protected shorelines catching a few decent speckled trout and the occasional redfish. This time of year anglers should be fishing drains and bayous near Frozen

and Marsh Points. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter. Surface water temperature 58 degrees the water clarity is good. Redfish are good in drains around grass lines when there is a good tide movement. Still catching trout over mud flats with scattered shell, as well as in the marsh areas in and around deeper cuts. A few birds are working, but there is less bird action than in previous weeks. Shrimp imitation lures with Fish Smack popping corks, with 14-18 inch leaders are producing the most bites for anglers, as well as Deadly Dudley Terror Tails in Blue Moon Chartreuse on 1/4 and 1/8 ounce jig heads. The lure depends upon wind conditions and water depth. The bite should continue to improve as the water cools and the days are getting shorter, so now is a great time to enjoy some time on the water with fewer crowds and active fish. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC.

**• Galveston Bay**  
FAIR. 56 degrees. Moses

Lake is the hot spot for those fishing near Eagle Point. Adjacent shorelines around Eagle Point giving up mixed boxes of speckled trout, a few redfish and sheepshead over hard shell and old pier pilings. The Sylvan Beach area has been fair for speckled trout. Best action on live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

**• West Galveston Bay**

FAIR. 62 degrees. Chocolate Bayou and Bay is holding good numbers of speckled trout, along with slot redfish. Waders finding the best sized fish in the coves along the south shoreline and on the west side of San Luis Pass. Scattered trout by those drifting soft plastics in upper west Galveston bay. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

**• Texas City**

FAIR. 58 degrees. Night fishing is best off the Texas City Dike for catches of bull redfish and oversized black drum. Galveston jetties producing bull redfish, slot redfish, a few oversized black drum, and keeper drum, along with some nice sheepshead. Beachfront pier reporting fair catches of bull redfish. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

**• Freeport**

GOOD. 68 degrees. Trout and redfish are good working under the birds in Bastrop, Christmas, and Chocolate Bays with gulp shrimp and live shrimp. Drum, sheepshead, trout and redfish are good fishing The Brazos River and Bernard River. Report by Captain Jake Brown, Flat-tie Daddy Fishing Adventures.

**• East and West Matagorda Bay**

FAIR. 65 degrees. The month of December is typically the best fishing as the shrimp migration comes to a close flushing shrimp into the bays. The bite is best on mild weather days, or fishing between the cold fronts.

## 'The Lakes' Fishing

**• Toledo Bend Fishing Report**

FAIR. Water clear; 62-66 degrees; 4.24 feet below pool. Bass are good and should only improve as the water cools. Bass are in three stages with catches up to 8 pounds. Shallow bass are in 2-6 feet of water biting spinnerbaits, chatterbaits and rattletraps. Bass in 10-18 feet of water can be caught using a big crankbait, Texas or Carolina rig worm. Deeper bass can be found in 22-28 feet of water on spoons, dropshots and any kind of deep diving bait. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

**• Sam Rayburn Fishing Report**

FAIR. Water slightly stained; 60 degrees; 6.60 feet below pool. Bass are moving deeper with deep diving crankbaits coming into play, and as the water temperature dips into the 50s expect the rattletrap bite to pick up. Some bass continue to be shallow chasing shad fattening up for winter. Wacky worms along the edge of grass and pads will continue to catch fish. Crappie are in the creeks. Catfish are chasing shad balls up the creeks. White bass are schooling with catches on slabs. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service.

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# Girls basketball begins district action this week

**DAN PERRINE**  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats finished up the West Kolache Tournament with a win on Saturday, December 2, against Coolidge. Orangefield went 3-1 in the tournament which took place near Waco.

The Lady Bobcats were led offensively by Mikayla Locke who had 17 points and also had a team high 7 steals. Greenlea Oldham pulled down 5 rebounds, made 2 steals, and scored 12 points for Orangefield. Other Lady Bobcats with good games were Rebecca Durbin who fought for 5 rebounds, Steeley Franklin tallied 5 points and grabbed 4 rebounds while

Brooklyn Wagoner had 4 points and 3 rebounds. The Lady Bobcats began district play on Tuesday night at Orangefield against Kountze.

The week before the start of district the Orangefield Lady Bobcats hosted the Vidor Lady Pirates at the Orangefield Gymnasium. The Lady Bobcats dropped a close one 33-32 to the Lady Pirates.

Mikayla Locke had a strong game for Orangefield leading in points with 9, making 8 steals, and grabbing 5 rebounds. Greenlea Oldham topped the Lady Bobcats with 14 rebounds while scoring 8 points. Rebecca Durbin and Paisley Reeves both scored 6 points. Brooklyn Wagoner had 3 rebounds



and 2 steals to go along with her 3 points.

The three Class 4A girls basketball teams in Orange County played in separate tournaments the week before the start of their district games. The Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears finished second in the Evadale Tournament. Lady Bears Keylie Washburn and Maya Meadow walked away with All-Tournament picks. LCM played Hull-Daisetta on Tuesday and will begin district action against the West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs

on Friday.

West Orange-Stark finished third at the Big Sandy Tournament this past weekend beating Cold-spring 50-36. The Lady Mustangs play at home on Friday against LCM and at Bridge City on Tuesday, December 12, for their first two district games.

The Bridge City Lady Cardinals defeated Port Neches-Grove 46-21 and lost to Buna 50-41 to go 3-3 in the PNG Tournament over the weekend. Lady Cardinals are now 10-6 overall and open district action on Friday at

PHOTO LEFT:

Lady Bobcat Kennedy Thibodeaux was awarded the All-Tournament medal by her Orangefield teammates and coaches after the West Tournament.

## Holiday fun in Texas State Parks

TPWD - Release:

AUSTIN – Texas State Parks is kicking off the holiday season with close to 100 special seasonal activities happening across the state. Visitors of all ages can enjoy themed guided walks, crafting events, educational opportunities and more.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) highly encourages anyone planning a trip to a Texas State Park to reserve their day pass in advance since some parks are expected to reach their capacity limit. Reserve day passes online or over the phone by calling (512) 389-8900.

For more information about all holiday activities at Texas State Parks and TPWD sites, visit the TPWD calendar page on the web.

Join us from 1-3 p.m. Dec. 9 to Caddo Lake State Park for A Crafty Caddo Christmas. Join park staff as they deck the halls, sip hot chocolate, snack on cookies and make ornaments. All supplies will be provided.

We may not have Santa's reindeer in our parks, but we have plenty of their relatives. All ages are welcome to join rangers from 2-3 p.m. Dec. 9 at Ray Roberts Lake State Park to learn about the deer that call our parks home.

Experience the holidays on the coast during Christmas in the Park from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Dec. 9 at Goose Island State Park. Visitors are invited to enjoy a free drive through the live oak forest to see campsites decorated in lights and join park staff at Santa's Village for holiday

crafts, games, hot chocolate around the campfire and more. Campers who agree to decorate their campsite will have their fees waived from Dec. 8-9.

Whether you just got off a cattle drive or climbed out of a vehicle, you're invited to sit back and relax with us for Cowboy Christmas Music and Poetry. Bring your best singing voice from 6-7 p.m. Dec. 9 to Copper Breaks State Park to join in the festivities.

Learn how to make a sweet holiday treat from 1-2 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Lockhart State Park Taffy Pull. Join us as we get our hands messy and learn how to make taffy. You can eat it as soon as it cools down or save it to give away to a loved one. All ages are welcome.

Experience the holiday traditions of the borderlands at our annual Posada from 6-8 p.m. Dec. 16 at Fort Leaton State Historic Site. Posada means "inn" or "shelter" in Spanish. This traditional Mexican Christmas tradition tells the story of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem through skits and songs. Following the procession through thousands of luminaries, there will be traditional holiday drinks, snacks, piñatas and mariachi. Participants can wander the halls of the candle-lit fort on their own or take a guided tour.

Come enjoy the 54th Annual Tree Lighting, a tradition started by President and Mrs. Johnson, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Dec. 17 at Lyndon B. Johnson State Park & Historic Site. Listen to carolers, view the live nativity, visit San-

ta Clause, partake in holiday refreshments and take in the spectacular tree. Then journey back in time visit the Sauer-Beckmann Farm at dusk. The ambiance created by the lantern-lit path, the real Christmas Tree in the parlor, and the live music transports you back to what an authentic Tex-

as-German Christmas was like at the turn of the century.

Add a piece of park history to your Christmas tree this year and help Texas State Parks continue its 100-year celebration with a 2023 Texas State Parks ornament.

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with great attention to detail, made with vibrant colors on metal and features a laser-cutting technique used to create a distinct dot for all 89 Texas State Parks.

The ornament can be purchased exclusively for \$19.95 each and includes free shipping. Ornaments purchased by Dec. 10 are likely to arrive before Christmas. Taxes will be applied at check out.

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# No. 3 Texas to face No. 2 Washington, playoffs

University of Texas Release

AUSTIN, Texas – No. 3 Texas Football will be heading to New Orleans, La. to face No. 2 Washington in the 2024 Allstate Sugar Bowl on Jan. 1, 2024. The College Football Playoff semifinal between the Longhorns (12-1) and Pac-12 Champion Huskies (13-0) will kick off at 7:45 p.m. CT from inside Caesars Superdome and air nationally on ESPN.

Texas will be making its first College Football Playoff appearance in program history, climbing from No. 7 in the penultimate CFP ranking last week to No. 3 after a dominant victory over No. 18 Oklahoma State in the Big 12 Championship game, winning 49-21 on Saturday.

The Longhorns won the Big 12 title for the first time since 2009 and is riding a seven-game winning streak, the longest for the program since 2008-09 Washington defeated Oregon for the Pac-12 crown on Friday, the Huskies' first since 2018, and has won 20 consecutive games, the longest active streak among FBS programs.

Texas' No. 3 ranking in the College Football Playoff is the highest in program history. The Horns had been selected at number seven in the first five CFP rankings, the best mark in program history, prior to climbing to third. The Longhorns checked in at No. 3 in the latest Associated Press poll, the fourth time this season UT has been ranked in the top-3, and at No. 4 in the Coaches poll, the second time the Horns have been in the top-4 in 2023.

The 2024 Sugar Bowl marks the 59th all-time bowl appearance for the Longhorns, the third-most in the country behind only Alabama and Georgia, and the 42nd for the Huskies.

Texas and Washington have played five times, with the Longhorns owning a 3-2 all-time record. The programs met last season in the 2022 Valero Alamo Bowl, where the Longhorns fell, 27-20.

The winner of this year's game, the 90th annual Sugar Bowl Classic, will advance to the College Football Playoff Championship on Monday, January 8, in Houston. The other Playoff Semifinal pits No. 1 Michigan



Steve Sarkisian has now led his programs to seven bowl games in his 10 seasons as a head coach.

Sarkisian's 2023 Longhorns feature a balanced attack that is averaging 36.0 points per game (16th NCAA) and allowing just 17.5 points per game (13th NCAA), while ranking ninth in total offense (475.9) and 23rd in total defense (321.7).

against No. 4 Alabama and will be played at the Rose Bowl, which kicks off at 4 p.m. (Central), also on ESPN.

Washington, as the higher seed, will be the home team and will occupy the home bench on the west sideline of the Caesars Superdome while Texas will occupy the visitor bench on the east sideline.

Steve Sarkisian has now led his programs to seven bowl games in his 10 seasons as a head coach. He led Washington to four-straight bowl games following the 2010-13 seasons and guided USC to the Holiday Bowl in 2014. Sarkisian is 2-3 as a head coach in bowl games. His Washington team played in the 2013 Fight Hunger Bowl, a game he did not coach in after taking over the Trojans' program. Sarkisian was the head coach for the Huskies' Alamo Bowl appearance against Baylor in 2011.

Sarkisian's 2023 Longhorns feature a balanced attack that is averaging 36.0 points per game (16th NCAA) and allowing just 17.5 points per game (13th NCAA), while ranking ninth in total offense (475.9) and 23rd in total defense (321.7).

## Texas Football Bowl Notes

- The 2024 Allstate Sugar Bowl will mark UT's 59th all-time bowl appearance, the third-most in college football history. The Longhorns own a bowl record of 31-25-2.

- Texas and Washington will face off for the sixth time in series history. The teams met in last season's Valero Alamo in San Antonio. The Longhorns and Huskies will meet in back-to-back seasons for the first time since a home-and-home series in 1974-75.

- Texas holds a 3-2 record all-time against Washington, including a 1-2 record in neutral-site meetings. UT fell to Washington in the 2022 Alamo Bowl, (27-20) after previously besting the Huskies at the 2001 Holiday Bowl (47-43) and Washington claiming the win at the 1979 Sun Bowl (14-7). Texas won a home-and-home series against Washington in the early 70's winning in Austin by a score of 35-21 in 1974, then topping the Huskies in Seattle in 1975, 28-10.

- Texas will be playing a current member of the Pac-12 Conference for the 14th time. UT holds an 8-5 record in those instances.

- This year's Sugar Bowl will be UT's fifth all-time appearance in the game. The Longhorns are 2-2 in the Sugar Bowl, with their last appearance being a 28-21 victory over Georgia in 2019. Prior to that, the Horns won the 1948 Sugar Bowl, 27-7 over Alabama, lost the 1958 Sugar Bowl,

39-7 to Ole Miss, and fell in the 1995 Sugar Bowl to

Virginia Tech, 28-10.

- Texas will be making its 18th trip overall to Louisiana. The Longhorns have a 10-6-1 record in the Pelican State with a 7-0-1 record in New Orleans against Tulane, a 1-4 mark against LSU in Baton Rouge and a 2-2 Sugar Bowl record. The Horns are 2-1 all-time in the Superdome (a win over Georgia and a loss to Virginia Tech in the Sugar Bowl and a 2002 win over Tulane).

## College Football Playoff Semifinal at the Allstate Sugar Bowl Ticket Information:

Texas Football season ticket holders may request tickets for the College Football Playoff Semifinal at the Allstate Sugar Bowl by logging in to their account here. The deadline

to request is TOMORROW (Monday, Dec. 4) at 5 p.m. Central. Please note that requesting tickets DOES NOT guarantee fulfillment as all requests will be filled in loyalty points rank order within priority limits based on annual gifts. Notifications will be sent out to all season ticket holders by December 8 whether or not they have been allocated tickets. Credit cards will not be charged unless tickets are allocated.

The University of Texas received a very limited allotment of student tickets for the College Football Playoff Semifinal at the Allstate Sugar Bowl. UT students who are Big Ticket holders will receive additional information via email on Sunday, Dec. 3 regarding the student ticket process.

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# Mustangs and Cardinals named All District

**DAN PERRINE**  
Orange County Sports  
For The Record

The all-district selections in football for District 9-4A Division II were released this week. The West Orange-Stark Mustangs and the Bridge City Cardinals had players chosen for the honors.

Of special note was Nicholas Crosson of the Mustangs who made the First Team Defense as both a corner back and as the punt returner in the district. Crosson was also named to the Second Team Offense as a wide receiver.

Nicholas Lejeune of the Cardinals made the First Team Defense in the defensive line. Joshua Miller Jr. with West Orange-Stark made the First Team Offense as an offensive lineman and the Second Team Defense in the defensive line. Junior Mustang Tahj Amerson made the First Team Defense at safety and the Second Team Offense as a running back. Elliott Adams IV of West Orange-Stark was chosen for the First Team Offense as the center.

**FIRST TEAM OFFENSE:**

Elliott Adams IV, West Orange-Stark, Senior, Center

Joshua Miller Jr., WOS, Senior, Offensive Line

First Team Defense:  
Nicholas Lejeune, Bridge City, Senior, Defensive Line

Jalen Gilmore, West Orange-Stark, Senior, Inside Linebacker

Amyrian Scott, West Orange-Stark, Junior, Outside Linebacker

Nicholas Crosson, West Orange-Stark, Senior, Corner Back

Tahj Amerson, West Orange-Stark, Junior, Safety

Nicholas Crosson, West Orange-Stark, Senior, Punt Returner

**SECOND TEAM OFFENSE:**

Marcus Turner, West Orange-Stark, Junior, Quarterback

Khelvy Jefferson, West Orange-Stark, Freshman, Running Back

Tahj Amerson, West Orange-Stark, Junior, Running Back

Jacob Higginbotham, West Orange-Stark, Senior, Fullback

Nicholas Lejeune of Bridge City was selected All-District to the First Team Defense in the defensive line



Nicholas Crosson of the Mustangs was named All-District to the First Team Defense as a corner back and as the punt returner as well as to the Second Team Offense as a wide receiver.



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Jerris Brown, Bridge City, Senior, Wide Receiver

Nicholas Crosson, West Orange-Stark, Senior, Wide Receiver

Daylen Edwards, West Orange-Stark, Senior, Offensive Line

Second Team Defense:

Ayden Richardson, Bridge City, Senior, Defensive Line

Joshua Miller Jr., West Orange-Stark,

Senior, Defensive Line

William Pitre, West Orange-Stark, Junior, Defensive Line

Anterion Fontenot, West Orange-Stark, Freshman, Inside Linebacker

Christopher Jones, West Orange-Stark, Senior, Corner Back

Ja'Cuincy Walker, West Orange-Stark, Freshman, Safety

## Tournament basketball From Page 4B

field goal of the opening quarter to make the score 11-4 midway through the first.

The offense for the Bulldogs was led in the early going by post Jayden Davis who tallied 11 points in the initial period. Guard Dallas Rosette made a steal leading one bucket and then drove the lane for a second basket that helped Nederland take an 18-7 lead after one.

Winn scored all seven of the Bears' points in the first quarter. The Bulldogs spread their points around with seven players getting in the scorebook in the first half with Maurice Holmes joining Davis in double figures with 10 points through two quarters as Nederland led 36-18 when the teams went to the locker rooms.

The Bears made an acrobatic alley-oop pass from Jonah Fuller which Winn converted into a basket to begin the second half. Nederland responded with a flurry of three-point baskets that extended the bulge to 24 points at 52-28 in the third quarter.

The fourth quarter started with LCM down 57-28, but the Bears outscored the Bulldogs 17-16 in the final eight minutes. Winn scored seven points in the fourth like

he did in each quarter but the second when he dropped in six. Bryson Price hit all six free throws he attempted in the final period.

Three-point shooting was a big plus for the Bulldogs in the game as they had five different players hit at least one of the twelve treys they made. The Bears made five from beyond the arc with three of them coming from Winn.

The high scorer in the game with 27 points was Alantheon Winn who also sank all six of his free throw attempts. Jeffcoat analyzed, "This is the first game I thought he shot it well and finished well. He's our leader and he's got to get some other people involved."

Bryson Price made his 6 points all from the free throw line in the fourth quarter. Price was followed by Jonah Fuller and Braylon Lewis with 5 apiece including each hitting a three.

Three Bulldogs finished in double figures led by Dallas Rosette's 16 that featured four three-pointers. Jayden Davis scored 15 points which was two better than Maurice Holmes with 13 points.

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### Wesley United Methodist Church Pecan sale

Wesley United Methodist Church will be selling this years crop of Durham/Ellis pecans and walnuts for their Annual Fund Raiser with 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.

### Good Shepherd offering YMCA after school care

Attention All Cardinals! The YMCA After School Program is being held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 945 W Roundbunch in Bridge City. Elementary and Middle school hours are after school until 6 pm. The Y's after school child care program provides peace of mind knowing your child is cared for in a safe, nurturing and structured environment. Financial aid is available. To register or for more information, visit the Y's website at ymcasetx.org/childcare or call at 409-962-6644.

### Dementia Care Givers' Support Group

The Dementia Care Givers' Support Group meets at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, Canticle Building, 4300 Meeks Drive in Orange on the following days and times: Second Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m., and Second Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m..

### MORE COMMUNITY EVENTS ONLINE

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POL. AD. PR. FOR BY BOBBY SMITH CAMPAIGN, KATH MERRITT, TREASURER



# Take a Chance This Advent

David Mathis  
Editor  
desiringGod.org

December is the darkest month. January may be coldest (at least here in the northern hemisphere), but December has the winter solstice, least daylight, and most nighttime hours. Without a fresh layer of snow to reflect the moon and stars, December is as dark as it gets. This makes it both a surprising and wonderful time for the light of Christmas — and for the season of waiting we call Advent.

From now until December 21, the days will grow shorter, and we'll be waiting with increasing expectation for the light to return and grow brighter. Advent itself is a season of waiting, and an ancient invitation to slow down (during the month that has become the busiest of the year). The season bids us to mark the days and make them count, to relearn a pace of life that is more unhurried (and more human) in the midst of December's consumer chaos.

Advent invites us to wait for Christmas with patience and hope, and to be ready, when Christmas finally arrives, so that we're not caught off guard, but actually enjoy the great feast.

### Short and Sweet

The English "Advent," from the Latin *adventus*, means "arrival" or "coming." The advent in view each December is the first coming of Jesus, and with

it, his promise to come a second time. Advent begins the fourth Sunday before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve.

Each year, in our season of waiting to rehearse the arrival of God himself in human flesh, Christians remember the people of faith who waited centuries — not months and years but centuries! — for the coming of God's promised Messiah.

Now we live, with fantastic privilege, in the era of the Messiah. Christ has come as the climax of history and revealed the Godhead and his gracious purposes. It is good for us, though, to rehearse the patient waiting and anticipation of God's ancient people, to renew and deepen our appreciation of what we now have in him. And like them, to wait for the advent that is to come.

### Baby Steps for Jesus

To be clear, the risen Christ, Lord of the church, has not mandated that we celebrate Advent. Or Christmas, or Easter, for that matter. Observing Advent, or any other season or calendar square, does not secure (or keep us in) God's favor (see Galatians 4:10-11; Colossians 2:16-17). Christ has finished that work, and through his Spirit, we are joined to him, receiving the Father's full acceptance by faith alone.

Advent, then, is an opportunity, not an obligation — an occasion to make much of Jesus. Here at the outset of another December, we might consider



three concentric circles in which to take up some modest initiative to point ourselves and others to Christ.

And if I may, let me emphasize modesty. New seasons can bring the temptation to endeavor more than we can realistically sustain. Wisdom often chooses small but significant beginnings that ultimately add up, day by day, to a more Christward, worshipful Advent.

### In Our Own Hearts

First, ask about your own soul. How might this new and brief season be an opportunity to tend to your own heart and faith? The length of Advent makes it ideal for habit formation. Ask how you might seek to warm your soul during the darkness of December. What fresh initiative might you take in personal devotions or your spiritual hab-

its to both quiet your soul in all the noise, and lead you into a new year, with spiritual buoyancy rather than discouragement?

You might lay out some Advent reading (and meditation) plan in Scripture — in the birth narratives of the Gospels, or in Isaiah (the great Christmas prophet), or working through the minor prophets, or even the book of Revelation. This time of year, many reach for Advent devotional books (two options from Desiring God are *Good News of Great Joy* and *The Christmas We Didn't Expect*). You might identify certain passages of Scripture to memorize and meditate on. Or you could ask yourself, Has some particular means of God's grace been absent from my life in recent months? Consider fasting or renewed practices in prayer or local-church fellowship.

Moving out from our

own hearts and private practices, ask how you might draw others into the joy of waiting well for Christmas. Special Advent plans for family devotions have been a favorite of ours over the years (including the very spiritual use of chocolates for the kids). Long readings can be a challenge with small children. One idea for young families is to plan for one particular Advent verse (or short passage) for each day, with a brief, heartfelt explanation from mom or dad. Without small children, you can aim higher (yet remember the wisdom in small beginnings).

Beyond family devotions, consider other Advent traditions, whether adjusting old practices or starting new ones, to bring Christ-intentionality to the season. One we've enjoyed now for many years is trying to make the most of a social custom.

### In Our World

Wonderful as it may be to warm our own hearts at the fires of Advent, we find an outward impulse at the very heart of that first Advent.

Advent marks the greatest missionary act in history: God himself, in Christ, came into our world to dwell among us and save us from our sins. Heaven forbid, then, that we keep all the warmth of Advent indoors and to ourselves. There is no better time than Advent and Christmas to speak boldly of Christ's love and seek to show it through acts of love.

Each December we see our world convulse in the irrationalism of sin. Remarkably, the secular world

both stops for Christmas, like no other day of the year, and at the same time tries so hard to paper over Christ with Santa and reindeer. Advent is a call to take a risk and speak into the tension. Pull back the curtain. Make the pinprick of light into a beam.

### Another Lost Opportunity?

Scottish theologian Donald Macleod, who died this year, once lamented,

Every year the world — and the church — experiences Christmas, that curious amalgam of paganism, commercialism, and Christianity which Western civilization has invented to tide it over the darkest days of the winter. Christmas is a lost opportunity, a time when the world invites the Church to speak and she blushes, smiles, and mutters a few banalities with which the world is already perfectly familiar from its own stock of clichés and nursery rhymes. (From *Glorry to Golgotha*, 9)

What surprising word might you speak, or act of generosity might you take, toward unbelieving neighbors and family and co-workers? Might Advent be an occasion, and excuse, to take the potentially awkward initiative for Jesus you've been wanting to take all year? Perhaps your words and faith-inspired efforts will prove to be their turning, from darkness to light.

May the opportunity not be lost on us this year. Make this Advent your invitation to make much of Jesus in your own heart, in your home, with your church, and in our world.

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Pastor Dr. Hershell Garner  
(409 782 5352)  
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**Triangle Baptist Church**  
6446 Garrison at Hwy. 408 Orangefield  
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Sunday School 10 a.m. Worship Service 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Service 7 p.m.  
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**First Baptist Church**  
Bridge City, Texas  
200 W. Roundbunch  
735-3581  
www.fbcbc.org  
Sunday schedule: Bible study 9:15 a.m.,  
Sunday worship: 10:30 a.m.,  
Adult, Youth, Children  
Discipleship Classes, Sun. 5:30 p.m.  
Wednesday Schedule 6:30 p.m.  
Prayer Meeting  
Youth & Children's Activities  
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Pastor: Ernest B Lindsey  
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study - 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. VIM Youth 6 p.m.  
Intercessory Prayer Daily 9:00 a.m.  
www.slccorange.org

**Living Word Church**  
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409-735-6659  
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Dr. Rev. Samuel Karunanithi - Pastor  
Rev. Ron Richardson, Co-Pastor

**Winfree Baptist Church**  
19525 Hwy 62 S • 409-735-7181  
office@winfreebaptist.org  
Dr. Larry Haynes, Interim Pastor  
Sunday: Sunday School - 9:15 am  
Morning Worship - 10:30 am  
Wednesday: Mid-Week Service - 6:00 pm  
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study  
Committed... To Christ, To His Word, To His Church, To His Commission

## Church Directory

**First United Methodist Church Orange**  
502 Sixth Street 886-7466  
10:00 A.M. - BLENDED SERVICE IN THE SANCTUARY  
All of our services are also available premiered on:  
Facebook at 9:00 a.m. (https://www.facebook.com/FUMCOrangeTX)  
or online on our Vimeo Page and YouTube.  
SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES 9:00 A.M.  
www.fumcorange.org  
Pastor: Rev. Lani Rousseau  
Director of Music and Fine Arts: Caroline Dennis

**St. Paul Methodist Church**  
1155 W. Roundbunch • Bridge City • 409.735.5546  
Sunday Morning Traditional Worship: 8:30 a.m.,  
Sunday school 9:30 a.m., Praise Worship 10:45 a.m.  
(Nursery provided)  
Wednesday SPICE 5:30 p.m. Includes meal, bible studies,  
children and youth activities. (Nursery provided).  
Rev. Mark Bunch Email: office@stpaulfamily.org

**GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
945 W. Roundbunch • Bridge City • 409-735-4573  
Worship Services: Tradition 9 a.m., Sunday School 10:15 a.m., Contemporary Service 11 a.m., Tuesday Bible Study 10 a.m., Wednesday 'Compassionate Friends' 10 a.m., Thursday Bible Study 10:00 a.m.  
Pastor Paul Zoch 409-988-3003 - golutheran.org  
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**Orange First Church of the Nazarene**  
3810 MLK Drive, Orange  
Lead Pastor Shane Weaver  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Worship Service 10:45 a.m.  
Wednesday Service 6:30 p.m.  
www.ofcn.church

**TRINITY BAPTIST CHURCH ORANGE**  
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**Jeremiah 29:11-13**  
"For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. 12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. 13 You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart."

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