

Penny Record

Vol. 64 No. 31 Distributed **FREE** To The Citizens of Bridge City and Orangefield Week of Wednesday, December 27, 2023

Orange brings new businesses, long-range planning



Workers are putting the finishing touches on a new Whataburger on 16th Street near Interstate 10 in Orange. City officials worked years to get the state to expand interstate frontage roads to allow more commercial development. The project is about complete with about \$14 million spent on new businesses in the acreage.

RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal

MARGARET TOAL For The Record

The Port of Orange is getting \$18.1 million from the state and will be able to do new projects to help local industry, thanks to a first-time allocation from the Texas Legislature.

Texas Speaker of the House, Dade Phelan, who represents Orange County and part of Jefferson County, and Texas Senator Robert Nichols, whose district includes Orange and Jefferson counties, were at the

Port of Orange on Monday to announce the allocation.

The four ports in Southeast Texas are receiving a total of \$66 million in the new state money for different projects.

The local port, whose offices are in the historic former Lutchter and Moore Lumber Company on the Sabine River, hosted the state officials, along with representatives from the ports of Beaumont, Port Arthur, and Sabine Pass for

NEW BUSINESS Page 3A

Nearly 1.7 million Texans lose Medicaid

STAFF REPORT For The Record

Nearly 1.7 million Texans have lost their health insurance — the largest number of people any state has removed — in the months since Texas began peeling people from Medicaid as part of the post-pandemic “unwinding.” Around 65% of these removals occurred because of procedural reasons, according to the state.

Texas’ Health and Human Services Commission has neared the end of a chaotic and overburdened process to remove people from state Medicaid insurance

who became ineligible during the coronavirus pandemic. The state had not unenrolled people before this year because of federal pandemic rules, which forbid states from cutting coverage.

As a result, more than 5 million Texans had continuous access to health care throughout the pandemic through Medicaid, the joint federal-and-state-funded insurance program for low-income individuals. In Texas, the program’s eligibility criteria is so restrictive, it mainly covers poor

TEXANS LOSE Page 3A



A century ago in county

MARGARET TOAL For The Record

News in Orange from a century ago isn’t much different from that going into 2024. Christian denominations were splitting and the government wanted to save by cutting back on employees.

The daily newspaper, Orange Leader, of January 31, 1923, was reporting on local, national, and world affairs. One Associated Press story predicted “the year o the great realignment of the church forces in the United States” “spurred by the war between fundamentalists and modernists.”

One pastor was criticizing “flapperism,” referring to the short-skirted, bob-haired young women of the Roaring Twenties. “Flapperism is the reaches of insulted intelligent youth against the miserable hypocrisy of parents,” one pastor said.

Reports came that Mayor Sol M. White was going to save \$7,200 in the city’s



“Flapperism” was alleged in Orange in 1923. Flappers were the living symbol of the Roaring Twenties. The term describes the generation of young, stylish women in the 1920s.

budget. According to the U.S. Department of Labor inflation calculator, that would be the equivalent off \$133,115 today.

Mayor White was going

to eliminate two positions because of vacancies. One job was of a “policeman” after the resignation of “Officer Jett,” and the other was the job of private secretary

to the mayor. Mayor Lea, who had resigned to take a job in Dallas, was taking the secretary with him to his new position. The police officer and secretary each would save \$1,800. Mayor White was eliminating the job of city engineer, with engineer A.J. Willison resigning effective February 1. That job vacancy would save \$3,600 a year.

Even with the city making cutbacks, local bankers predicted a prosperous year locally with 2024. The daily paper interviewed officers at the city’s three banks, First National, Orange National, and Guaranty & Trust.

The bankers were predicting that the Intracoastal Canal with a route through Orange would begin that year and the Texas Creosote Company’s new plant would open. The newspaper reported the bankers were “unanimous in their belief that 1924 will usher in one of the most successful years in the his-

A CENTURY Page 2A

Year ends with stagnant sales

MARGARET TOAL For The Record

As 2023 comes to a close, most of the public entities with sales taxes have income staying above the inflation rate, but Bridge City and Pinehurst have had stagnant returns.

The Texas Comptroller’s Office has sent the cities, county, and one special district the sales taxes for sales in the month of October and has calculated the 12 months of sales taxes paid

to the entities.

Orange ended up with a whopping 28.9 percent end of the year increase from 2022, while Bridge City saw year’s increase at less than 1 percent. Pinehurst had a slight decrease of 1.3 percent. The U.S. Department of Commerce reports the October inflation rate at 3.2 percent.

Other entities, including Orange County, have 12 months of sales tax payments remaining above the inflation rate.

The payments and end of the year totals follow.

Bridge City has a 1.5 percent sales tax and collected \$166,276 for October this year. That was a decrease of 4.24 percent from the amount of \$173,654 for October 2022. The city now has collected \$2.24 million for the year, a slight increase from the \$2.235 last year.

Pinehurst has a 1.5 percent sales tax rate. The city has \$52,445 of income from sales taxes in October this

year, compared to \$173,654 last year, a decrease 4.69 percent. The city ended the year with a total of \$665,500, a 1.34 percent decrease from \$674,582 last year.

Orange has a 1.5 percent sales tax and was down for the month of October by 4.47 percent. The city had \$40,011 for October this year, compared to \$460,614 last year. However, the city ended the year, seeing more

SALES TAX Page 3A

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— Orange —

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Apes remember long-lost friends not seen in decades

Vanessa Romo
NPR News

Hold on to your heart: A new study found that apes — our closest living relatives — can recognize family members and long lost friends even after decades of separation.

Researchers tested 26 captive chimpanzees and bonobos from zoos around the world, showing them pictures of former groupmates alongside pictures of unknown apes, ultimately confirming what primatologists have long suspected.

“It was a really simple test: Do they look longer at their previous groupmate, or are they looking longer at the stranger?” Laura Simone Lewis, a postdoctoral fellow in Berkeley’s psychology department and lead author of the study, explained.

“And we found that, yes, they are looking signifi-



Researchers say they now have evidence that apes can remember individuals for a majority of their 40- to 60-year average lifespan

cantly longer at the pictures of their previous groupmates.”

Chimpanzees and bonobos recognize photos of groupmates they haven’t seen for more than 25 years and respond even more enthusiastically to pictures of

their friends, a new study finds.

There is also evidence that they became even more intent when shown a picture of an ape with whom they’d had more positive interactions, as compared with antagonistic relation-

ships, according to the report published last week in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

“We like to see ourselves, as humans, as unique special creatures with incredible intellectual capacities that are very different from every other animal on earth,” Lewis said. “This study is showing us how similar we are to chimpanzees and bonobos

She noted that the findings support the theory that long-term social memory in humans and modern day chimps and bonobos has evolved from “our last common ancestor that lived somewhere between 5 to 7 million years ago” which also likely had long-term social memory.

The participating apes were all volunteers that were given juice while staring at a screen flashing side by side photos of other

bonobos and chimps. One animal from each pair of photos had lived with the group for at least a year, while the other was a stranger. An infrared eye-tracking camera recorded where the participants were looking and for how long. Data showed their eyes lingered longer on familiar groupmates, suggesting “rich recognition of each other.”

In the most impressive case, a 46-year-old bonobo named Louise at the Kumamoto Sanctuary in Japan repeatedly demonstrated “robust” attention upon seeing photographs of her sister Loretta and nephew Erin, whom she hadn’t seen in more than 26 years. The team said Louise’s results represent the longest-lasting social memory docu-

mented in any non-human animal to date.

Researchers say they now have evidence that apes can remember individuals for a majority of their 40- to 60-year average lifespan

Senior author Christopher Krupenye, an assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University who studies animal cognition, said the experiment was inspired by longtime observations among primatologists who go months or years between visits with the individual animals they study.

“When [the apes] see a familiar face, particularly one that they haven’t seen in a while, they get excited. It seems that they really recognized and remember us, Krupenye said. “We wanted to design a study that could test that.”

A century ago From Page 1

tory of Orange.”

Downtown businesses at the time included the three banks, White House department store, Nathan’s Dry Goods, Crager’s department store, Orange Furniture Company, Miller’s Cash Store, Model Tailors, Joe Lucas and Son jewelers, Holleman and Cottle, Goree’s Drug Store, East Texas Hardware Company, Orange Drug Store, Handley’s, H.L. Cohenour jewelers and optician, and Colburn Grain Company. Jackson Motor Cars at the corner of Border and Polk streets had Dodge Brothers cars.

Traditional churches continued locally and the Reverend E.T. Drake of First Presbyterian Church

on Green Avenue announced Miss Jule Tyne of Queencastle, Indiana, would be the new organist and music director. She had been working at the church and her work had been “entirely satisfactory to church officers and warranted her employment.”

Sunset Grove Country Club, built by H.J. Lutch Stark and opened in 1922, had a New Year’s Eve party that was “one of the social events of the holiday season.” The dancing affair featured the Virginians, an orchestra from Beaumont.

Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Brown Jr. held the traditional Southern New Year’s Day open house at their home, 811 Green Avenue. The couple in 1924 built

their red brick mansion at 803 Green Avenue, a building that later became Orange City Hall.

Edgar Brown Jr., cousin of Stark, had not yet built his own country club, Pinehurst.

Orange’s population in 1920 was 9,212, with the county’s population at 15,379. In 1910, the city had 5,572 people with the county at 9,528. The figures show Orange, which was the only incorporated city in the county, had the majority of the county’s population.

Orange got a bit of sad news to end the year. The local Salvation Army leaders Captain and Mrs. D.C. Nichols, were being transferred on January 6. They

had been working hard during the Christmas season. Not only did the Salvation Army, which was in a two-story building on Front Street, provide needy children with toys and families with food, the group hosted a Christmas dinner for the community and sheltered people who had to move because of river flooding.

The flooding had temporarily caused the Orange Car and Steel Company to close. But good news came with the new year. The 300 workers at the plant were able to go back to their jobs of refurbishing railroad cars. The company had a contract with International & Great Northern Railroad.

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.

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Season’s Greetings, continued
Happiness and All the Best for a
Prosperous New Year.

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Battalion Chief Joel Gilbert of the Orange Fire Department (center) recently graduated from the regional police academy at Lamar Institute of Technology. The 12-year veteran of OFD received his certification from the Texas Commission on Fire Protection as an arson investigator. He is now one of five certified peace officers in the department. Fire Chief John Bilbo is to the left of Gilbert.

A century ago

From Page 1

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Sales tax stagnant

From Page 1

than \$2 million extra in the city income. The city collected \$9.33 million in 2023, compared to \$7.23 million last year, an increase of 28.9 percent.

West Orange has a 1.25 percent sales tax and collected \$110,227 for October, down from \$111,910 in October 2022, a decrease of 1.5 percent. The city collected a total of \$1.45 million this year, up 6.57 percent from the \$1.36 million in 2022.

Vidor has a 1.5 percent sales tax and had \$274,428 for October this year, an increase of 3.68 percent from \$264,663 last year. The city in 2023 collected a total of \$3.77 million, up 6.38 percent from the \$3.54 million in 2022.

Orange County has a sales tax rate of 0.5 percent, or a half-cent per dollar. The

county dropped for the month of October, but was up for the whole year. The county collected \$521,428 for October 2023, a drop of nearly 13 percent from \$599,185 last year. The year was up 7.75 percent from last year with \$8 million total collected, up from \$7.29 million last year.

The Little Cypress Fire and Rescue Department is the Orange County Emergency Services District No. 3 and is the only special district in the county with a sales tax, which was approved by voters. For October, the district collected \$25,222, down from \$26,688 for October 2022. The district was up 13.41 percent for the year with \$399,734, an increase from the \$299,543 last year.

Texans lose Medicaid

From Page 1

children, their mothers while pregnant and post partum, and disabled and senior adults.

But the effects of speedrunning this process have reverberated: Still-eligible Texans were kicked off both in error and for procedural reasons, adding to backlogs of hundreds of thousands of Medicaid applications and pushing wait times back several months. Backlogs for SNAP food benefits applications, which the same state agency also manages, also skyrocketed because of the burden.

“The state handled this with an incredible amount of incompetence and indifference to poor people,” U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, told The Texas Tribune. “It’s really appalling.”

Doggett has repeatedly demanded for changes in the process, most recently sending a letter to the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services calling their scrutiny of the state “woefully inadequate.”

He said he also contacted the agency overseeing the nation’s Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program program, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, about improving the state’s food benefit access during this time. He suggested pausing upcoming SNAP renewals so Texas staffers could focus on working

through backlogs first.

Neither federal agency had responded to him as of Thursday morning, he said.

As of Dec. 8, there were 207,465 SNAP applications and 288,939 Medicaid applications waiting to be processed, according to HHSC spokesperson Tiffany Young.

“Nobody who watched this is surprised about the backlog. We had delays before the unwinding, and then we put a gigantic amount of work on the system that wasn’t spaced in any sort of even, realistic way, that was totally front-loaded,” said Stacey Pogue, a senior policy analyst at Every Texan.

“The way the state’s choosing to do this is one gigantic, long backlog. That’s a choice, and it hurts people in need,” she added. “But they had other choices to take workload off the system without asking people to wait and wait and wait and wait.”

The wait time for Texans who now apply for both SNAP and Medicaid has decreased to a little over a month, as they have to wait for their Medicaid application to go through first, Doggett said. Young said a special team processes combined applications at the same time. This is a reduction from a five-month waiting period in place in December, Young said.

New businesses

From Page 1

the special announcement.

Phelan, the House District 21 representative, said this is the first time the state legislature has invested so much in the ports in the state.

The new emphasis on ports has been helped by Phelan, who grew up in this area and worked his way to the powerful speaker of the house position, and Nichols, who is chair of the State Senate Transportation Committee. Nichols lives in Jacksonville, but has a chemical engineering degree from Lamar University in Beaumont and a petrochemical professional background that made him familiar with the importance of ports along the Texas coast.

The Port of Orange owns several acres of land along the Sabine River off DuPont Drive, plus acreage of the former U.S.

Navy base along the river off Simmons Drive.

Port Director Lorrie Taylor said the new state money will be used to repair a dock, plus develop a 10-acre site trucking site to help accommodate the large trucks that haul off goods delivered to the port.

The state allocations will be used along with grants from the Port Connectivity Program and the Maritime Infrastructure Program.

The Orange Navigation and Port District was formed in 1960 and is a county-wide taxing entity with elected board commissioners to oversee the port. John Montagne is the current board president with other members Debbie Britnell, Keith Wallace, Walter Mullins III, and Marvin Spears.

Edward Jones

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Cheers to a New Year!


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




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BOBBY SMITH

FOR ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF

Bobby Smith, a seasoned law enforcement veteran with an impressive 29-year track record in criminal and traffic law, proudly presents himself as the Republican candidate for Orange County Sheriff. Bobby firmly believes that there is no greater responsibility than safeguarding the cherished citizens of Orange County. In an ever-evolving landscape of threats, both traditional and new, he is unwavering in his commitment to protect Orange County with the highest levels of competence and integrity.

Make no mistake, Bobby retired from the Texas Rangers to be your next Sheriff in Orange County. His loyalty is to the Constitution and the citizens of Orange County. He understands what that means and will protect and defend your rights. Bobby and his wife, Brandy Musgrove Smith, have four children and four grandchildren who all reside in Orange County. He wants to make Orange County a better place not only for them, but for all of you. Thank you for your overwhelming support and we humbly ask you for your vote to elect Bobby Smith as the next Sheriff of Orange County.

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From the Creaux's Nest

2023 FADES INTO HISTORY

Well, we’ve come to the end of another year. 2023 went by with rapid speed. The weeks and months just ran into one another. **I don’t recall a year passing so fast.** Maybe it’s because I kept my nose to the grindstone. ****Nationally, we’re ending the year on a high note. The stock market is at an all-time high. **I’m really optimistic about 2024.** I see a boom because of rising companies launching initial public offerings, potentially creating over 14 million new jobs and stroking economic growth. When we think back to just a few years ago, when we were knocking at the door of a depression, you can’t help but praise how far we’ve come. **The economic record couldn’t have been better,** inflation is dropping rapidly and wages are increasing. **It’s going to be a good year.**

REMEMBERING KENNETH “KEEKEE” DUPUIS

Kenneth Lee Dupuis, 78, of Bridge City, passed away on December 20, 2023. I have known Kenneth almost all of his life, his father Francis and I were friends going back to 1960. Francis used to raise fighting cocks and I would rake him to the races. There’s a lot of Francis stories. KeeKee was a lot like him. The three musketeers, LeLeux, the barber, Vance “Big Red” Chauvin and Kenneth “KeeKee” were all pranksters. They played pranks on each other daily and had a ball. Today, Vance is the only one left. Kenneth is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Nancy, son David, daughter Elizabeth and his best buddy and special son Adam. Please see obituary. He was a good man. May he rest in peace.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2023

The **Wednesday Lunch Bunch** gathered at **Robert’s** for their annual Christmas get together hosted by **Robert** himself. Among the guest were **Rev. John Bernardini** and his lovely wife. Our **Pearl Harbor** veteran, **Cedric Stout**, brought pretty **Ms. Cherry** or maybe she brought him. **Mike Abbott** had his wife **Kay** as his guest. **Judge Derry Dunn** and **Judge Joe Parkhurst**, Pinehurst City Administrator said their wives could not attend this year because school was still in session. **T.W. Permenter** said his lovely wife **Lyndia** is enjoying better health and looked forward to the holidays. **Judge Claude Wimberly**, as usual, always has a story from out of the past. The other dozen are so talked about holiday plans and the friends who have passed away since our last yearly gathering. *******Judge Buddie Hahn** and wife **Carol** motored to New Orleans last weekend to celebrate their 47th wedding anniversary. Great folks, one of my favorite couples. *****Back in 2007 when Bridge City **NFL kicker Matt Bryant** was with **Tampa Bay** we wrote about his community work and his selection as a finalist for the **Walter Payton “Man of the Year”** award. Now **Matt**, who is having another great year kicking for the Atlanta Falcons is again nominated for the **Payton award** by the Falcons for his community work. He is one of 31 players around the **NFL** nominated. The winner will be announced at the **Super Bowl** halftime. **Matt** makes all of Orange County proud. ***** It’s hard to believe that on Dec. 27, attorney **Sharon Bearden** has reached the senior class. It seems just a short time ago that our little brother came home a Baylor Law graduate and hung up his shingle. He served as district attorney and gave it up for private practice, which he still has today. ***Bridge City mayor, longtime public servant **Kirk Roccaforte** celebrates on Dec. 28. Also, if things go according to plan **Dist. Judge Courtney Akeen** is expecting twins on this day. A boy and a girl. *****On Dec. 28, one of our three sweethearts, **County Clerk Karen Jo Vance** celebrates. She is also celebrating that she doesn’t have to run a race.*****Dec. 29, pretty **Harriet Dubose** celebrates as does **Jacklyn Bradberry Pam LeDoux** and **Sam McLellan*****Dec. 30, **Paula Aven, Kendra Peveto, Kari Stringer, Rebecca Hannegan** celebrate. A group of nice ladies. *****Dec. 31, A great gal, **David’s** mom and

Debbie’s mother-in-law, **Norma Fusilier** celebrates on this day.***Also our longtime friends **Kenneth “Kee-Kee” Dupuis** and **Richard Hunter** celebrate. Best wishes to all.

22 Years Ago-2001

State Rep. Ron Lewis will not be a candidate for that office. A large stable of candidates are lining up to replace him. Many predict it will be the costliest State Representative’s race ever, maybe up to \$150 thousand. At the last minute, **Mike Hamilton, owner of Tuffy’s**, in Mauriceville, threw his hat in the ring. He says state and national **Republicans** urged him to run. Attorney **Paul Clayton** will run as a **Democrat**. Also running is former **State Rep. Curtis Soileau** and also **David Fisher** of Silsbee, grandson of **Joe Fisher**. **Fisher** was defeated by **Todd Staples** last year. **John Baker**, of Bridge City, has also filed as a **Democrat**. Others are expected to jump in the race before next weeks filing deadline.***** **Doug Harrington** has annual oyster-eating, served with crackers and hot sauce, get together for his friends on Christmas Eve. Some attending were **Johnny Montagne, John Dubose, Sharon Bearden, Bobby Cormier, Roy Dunn, Gene Edgerly, Wilson Roberts and the Montagne boys, John and Jason**.*******Ennis**, the team that defeated **West Orange-Stark** for the state football title, repeated and won the second state championship in a row by defeating **Bay City** 21-0.*******Burkeville, Rep. Ron Lewis’** home town, wins the state football championship by beating **Celeste** 27-8. (Editor’s Note: They don’t play football anymore do they?)*******Louis Dugas** writes a weekly column for “**The Record**,” **Vickie Toal** and **Wanda Walker** are his co-writers.*******Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Davis, of Orangefield**, celebrate their **50th anniversary** Dec. 28.*******Roy and Phyllis Dunn** celebrate 47 years of marriage Dec. 31.***** **Hormer and Becky Stark** celebrate **60 years** of marriage but romance dates back to grade school. (Editor’s note: Both of these fine people are gone now. It was a pleasure to have known them as friends.)*****A very young **Hunter Uzzle** goes duck hunting with dad and proudly displays a downed duck in a great photo in the **County Record**.*****Two youngsters, **Keller Free** and **Justin Granger**, caught a 46-pound drum at **Eddie Free’s “Honey Hole”** off of the Neches River near Sabine Lake. **Grandma Skipper Free** celebrates her 78 birthday.*******Karen Jo Vance** celebrates a birthday Dec. 28.

45 Years Ago-1978

Doctor Joe Majors was honored by Bridge City Rotarians. **Majors** is a graduate of the University of Texas-Austin and Baylor College of Dentistry. He and wife, **Mary**, moved to Bridge City from Clarksville, Texas, in 1959. ***** **Doug Harrington** hosted his annual Christmas Eve raw oyster party at his pharmacy. **Jimmy Conn** ate and drank the most. So far, word hasn’t reached us that anyone came up sick from over stuffing. Haven’t heard either if the oysters helped any of the old boys make out later. We’re not sure if it enhanced any of their performances. That’s what they were bragging about with each oyster they swallowed. ***** **Dennis Hall** celebrates a birthday Jan. 2. He presented a **Texas Country Rocker**, with a carved **Office Hound** on it, to **Roy** for Christmas. He still has the rocker.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

The **Stark Foundation’s Shangri La Gardens** has created the most popular holiday event in the region with the lighted Christmas strolls. The whole gardens area is lit with tens of thousands of lights and lighted figures. The tours this year drew an estimated **50,000 people** during the three-week run, with about **6,500 and 7,000** attending the last two nights.*****It’s not the only bright, colorful place for the holidays. **Westbury Lane in West Orange**, a small cul-de-sac off Western Avenue, continued its tradition of houses covered in lights. Residents **Pat** and **Patty Cook** are among the Christmas decorating enthusiasts and **Pat** even dons a **Santa** suit to visit with the children taking rides with parents to look at the lights. Not many neighborhoods give that kind of holiday cheer. Reminiscent of the late **Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kraut**, who dressed as **Santa** and **Mrs. Claus** at their house in the Norwood addition years ago.*****Congratulations to the **Little Cypress-Mauriceville High students** named to the court for the winter formal. The seniors are **Jacelyn Cook, Sethnika Hancock, Sofia Harrison, Zoey Royer, Keirah Vidaliar, Chloe Wells, Logan Adams, Oliver Hughes, Austin Hutchson, Luke McDow, Nicholas Smith, and Alantheon Winn**. Juniors are **Cailynn Nichols, Allie Stark, Ava White, Reid Burman, Tucker Floyd, and Kacen Scott**. Sophomores are **Paisley Angelle, Eden Frenzel, Jada Montagne, Ella Russell, Jaxon Armer, Cohen Kalena, Easton Staton, and Jake Raney**. Freshmen are **Kaylee Ray, Arden Robison, Lilly Tarver, Morgan Worster, Jaydence Ardoin, Dreyden Cook, Jaylin Hoffpauir, and Jakson Struwe**.*****A group of local women gathered last week for their **23rd annual Christmas cookie exchange**. The bakers and ladies who lunch in-

cluded **Nancy Byers, Michelle Belcher, Ann McCorquodale, Joyce Miller, Erin Worster Stephens, Debbie Taylor, Vicki Bingham, and Pat Sheffler**.*****The **West Orange-Cove school district** honored **Leneal Zeigler** with a retirement reception. He spent 30 years working for the district.*******Edie Burch** and **Richard Teague** decided to travel with their kids during Christmas break. They traveled to Hollywood, Florida, and the Florida Keys.*******Robert** and **Mindy Currie** spent the season traveling in Austria.*******Thereze Sichko** traveled to Kentucky to spend Christmas with her jet-setting brother and priest, **Father Jim Sichko**.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

A few folks we know having birthdays in the next few days. **Dec. 27: Attorney Sharon Bearden** turns 85 today. Also celebrating are **Russell Bottley, Bobby Fillyaw, Rebecca Johns, Judy Taylor** and **Lorraine Bonin**.*******Dec. 28: County Commissioner Kirk Roccaforte, Karen Jo Vance, Linn Cardner, Lynda Montagne, Jacob Broussard, and Kenneth Wiemers**.*******Dec. 29: Harriet Dubose, Pam White, Jacklyn Bradberry** and **Lauren Leger**.*******Dec. 30: Pam White, Paula Aven, Marie Perkins and Rebecca Hannegan**.*******Dec. 31: Norma Fusilier, Jessica Anderson, Sandra Hovind. Roy and Phyllis Dunn** celebrate **69 years** of marriage today.*******Jan. 1: Robert Hoke, Joanne Hill, Cynthia Hernandez, and Robert Hoke**. *******Jan. 2: Courtney Anderson, Cody Johnson, Jason Sieck and June Gunstream**.*****Happy 86th birthday to **Ronnie Hutchison**. Others celebrating birthdays this past week included **Mike Feagin, Brown Claybar, artist Lauren Leigh, Ellisia Carpenter, Trey Smith, Mackie Henning, Frances McGee, Sheila Rellford, James Woodard, Theron Pool, David Derosier, and Eddie Welch**. Christmas birthday celebrations included **Eva Smith, Christie Thompson, and Orange City Councilor Terrie Salter**.*******Donnie and Sheila Teate** had a grand **Golden Anniversary** celebration party at the Neches Room in Beaumont. She wore a sparkling silver, off-shoulder gown while he wore a black and silver paisley tux jacket with a gold vest and tie. Her sister, **Patricia Marshall-Wolfe** and husband gifted them with a trip to Las Vegas. Guests included **Diztorsha and Ray Lavan, Shaun Mayfield, and Roderick and Brandy Robertson**.*****Other anniversaries during the week included **Brittany** and **Max Williams**, plus **Brandon** and **Alexis LaBarbera**.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Da **Thibeaux** boys dem, drive crazy yea. **Joe Comeaux** get a ride into town wit one of dem. **Tee-Boy** kept running dem red lights. **Joe** him, he gets nervous and he say to **Tee-Boy**, “You not suppose to do dat you.” **Tee-Boy** answer, “Well, my brother **BooBoo** does.” Wen da come to da next light it was red too. **Tee-Boy** him, he speed up rat through dat one too. **Joe** him, he is really scared and he scream, “**Tee-Boy**, you not suppose to do dat you.” “Well, my brother **Boo Boo** does.” By the seven red light, **Joe** him done just bout mess in his britches he’s so scared. Jus as they got to da eight light da light it turn green. **Tee-Boy** him, he slam on da brakes. Da car, it nearly turn over. “My God, now wat da heck are you doing?” **Joe** axe nervously. **Tee-Boy** say, “Well my brother **Boo Boo**, he might be coming da utta way him.

C’EST TOUT

I want to thank each and every one of you who have tuned into this column every week of the year. **I thank you for your praise.** We strive every week to be factual, informative and entertaining. **A little something for everyone.** Sometimes “**The Bird**” will fall off his perch and squawk too loud about something but then again, if it needs saying, we might just blab it. Writing this column 52 weeks out of the year runs into more work than you might imagine. Really, **there is no down time.** About the time I get to thinking **Creaux and I are getting too old and tired** to do this I hear some encouraging words from the readers and it gets fun enough again to continue. You may not always agree but you have to admit we’re persistent.*****Cover to cover you would be hard pressed to find a publication loaded with so much good copy, wrapped in a plastic bag and delivered to your home free of charge. **That’s a lot of good stuff for nothing.** Thanks for your loyalty. My time is up for this year, but I’ll be back with you the first day of 2024. **Have a safe New Year’s Eve and take care. God Bess.**



Holiday turns North for Roy and Phyl

DOWN LIFE'S HIGHWAY
Roy Dunn - Columnist
For The Record

I started trying to make it through a Down Life's Highway column and have written this copy from the hospital on Christmas day.

I came down with COVID and with my COPD and kidney problems I ended up at St. E's very sick. Phyl, being sick herself, drove to an emergency clinic and also tested positive for COVID but without the other issues I have. The medicine the doctor prescribed has done her a lot of good. My daughter Karen, who is seeing that I am being cared for, is also now feeling sick.

A big Christmas dinner was planned, Mark and Ethel drove in from Florida, grandson Garrett and his daughter Julianna came in from Houston, son Allen smoked his famous brisket and ribs, Darwin Brack, at Danny's, furnished the rice dressing.

Of course the food won't be wasted.

On Dec. 31st, 1954, New Year's Eve, Phyl and I were married in Kountze at high-noon, with one witness, her best friend Margaret. Clarence McNeely was the county clerk who issued the license even though I was underage. Men had to be 21 to get a marriage license. He tried to call my dad but couldn't reach him so since it was New Years Eve he gave in and issued the license. We were married by a lady judge. We kept the marriage secret so Phyl could complete her high school education. We moved into our first apartment the night of her senior prom.

We produced a great family, three children, Mark, Allen and Karen, five grandchildren Amber Dunn Greeson, Jenna Dunn Ballou, Garrett, Sean and Collin Gros. We also are the proud



Roy and Phyl, the newly weds, attending her 1954 senior prom - Pleasure Pier Ballroom. That same night they moved into their first apartment.

It's been an exciting, never boring, successful life, with a great partner. Phyl just turned 87 and she's as pretty as ever inside and out. I'm staring 90 in the face. My goal is to at least reach that age and still be publishing the Penny and County Record. We don't always break even but we consider it a free service to our community. Since Social Media, it's been harder to get advertisers but we have loyal readers of the paper.

Some local advertisers find, with just a little money, they get great results. Just ask Harry and Margie Stephens, we have been their main source of advertising for over 50 years and they are a very successful small business. In March they will mark 61 years in business. There are other loyal advertisers like Brown Hearing Center, 50 years, Dr. Olson at Professional Dental, 40 years, you get the picture. Al Granger was with us over 20 years and launched his used car business into one of Orange's most successful enterprises. We can help.

Happy New Year from "The Dunn family."

Deaths & Memorials

Kenneth Lee Dupuis, 78, BC

Kenneth Lee Dupuis, 78, of Bridge City, Texas, passed away on December 20, 2023.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, December 27, 2023, at St. Paul Methodist Church in Bridge City. Officiating will be Reverend David Green. Burial will follow at Ebenezer Cemetery (On County Road 062 Jasper, Texas off of Hwy 255 Sam Rayburn Pkwy) at 3:00 p.m., Wednesday, December 27, 2023.

Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 26, 2023, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City.

Born in Port Arthur, Texas, on December 31, 1944, he was the son of Paul Francis Dupuis Sr. and Ninnie Gertrude (Best) Dupuis. Kenneth went to Bridge City Schools all twelve years. While in high school, he worked for his father who owned Dupuis Tire and Service. Ken took over the business in 1967, serving the community for almost 50 years. Kenneth was a member of Bridge City Optimist Club and a member of the Texas Service Station Dearlys Association, as well as a member of Bridge City Chamber of Commerce. While he owned and operated his business, he was a member of the Better Business Bureau of Southeast Texas. Kenneth was a member of St. Paul's Methodist Church, the same church he grew up in and attended with his mother and fa-



Kenneth Dupuis

ther. He was the Bridge City Christmas parade Marshall of 2014 and was Alumni of the year in 2011. Kenneth had many hobbies over the years but especially loved being outdoors, camping at their camp named the "Old Place", and working on old cars or trucks. Kenneth had a welcoming heart and loved helping others. His kindness will be greatly

missed by those who knew this wonderful man.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Ninnie and Paul Dupuis Sr.; brothers, Ronnie Dupuis and Paul Dupuis, Jr.; granddaughter, Brianna Carter; and brother-in-law, Larry McClure; and sister-in-law, Mary Beth McClure.

He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Nancy Rawls Dupuis; son, David Grady Dupuis and wife Cynthia, son, Adam Jim Dupuis; daughter, Elizabeth Mary Dupuis Carter and husband Matt; grandchildren Justin Dupuis, Hannah Dupuis, Brody Carter, and Lucas Carter; brothers, J.R. Dupuis and Herman Dupuis; brother-in-law, Jim Rawls and wife Sandy; as well as numerous other loving family and friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be Chris Harris, Leslie Dupuis, Phillip Dupuis, Jim Rawls. Honorary pallbearer will be Stanley Boullion.

Alabama mom is 1-in-a-million, delivering two babies, from two uteruses, in two days

Thirty-two-year-old Kelsey Hatcher welcomed two beautiful baby girls into the world last week, delivering fraternal twins at the University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital. But unlike typical twins, the newborns came from two separate wombs.

Hatcher vaginally delivered her first baby, Roxi, at 7:45 p.m. on Dec. 19, followed by Rebel, who was delivered by c-section about 10 hours later on Dec. 20.

Her experience is what's known as a dicavitary pregnancy, according to a Univer-

sity of Alabama at Birmingham news release. The National Library of Medicine says this type of pregnancy is believed to be a 1-in-a-million occurrence.

Hatcher was a teen when she was diagnosed with uterus didelphys, commonly referred to as a double uterus, which occurs in 0.3% of women, according to the Cleveland Clinic. She also has two cervixes. And though she had three typical pregnancies in years past,

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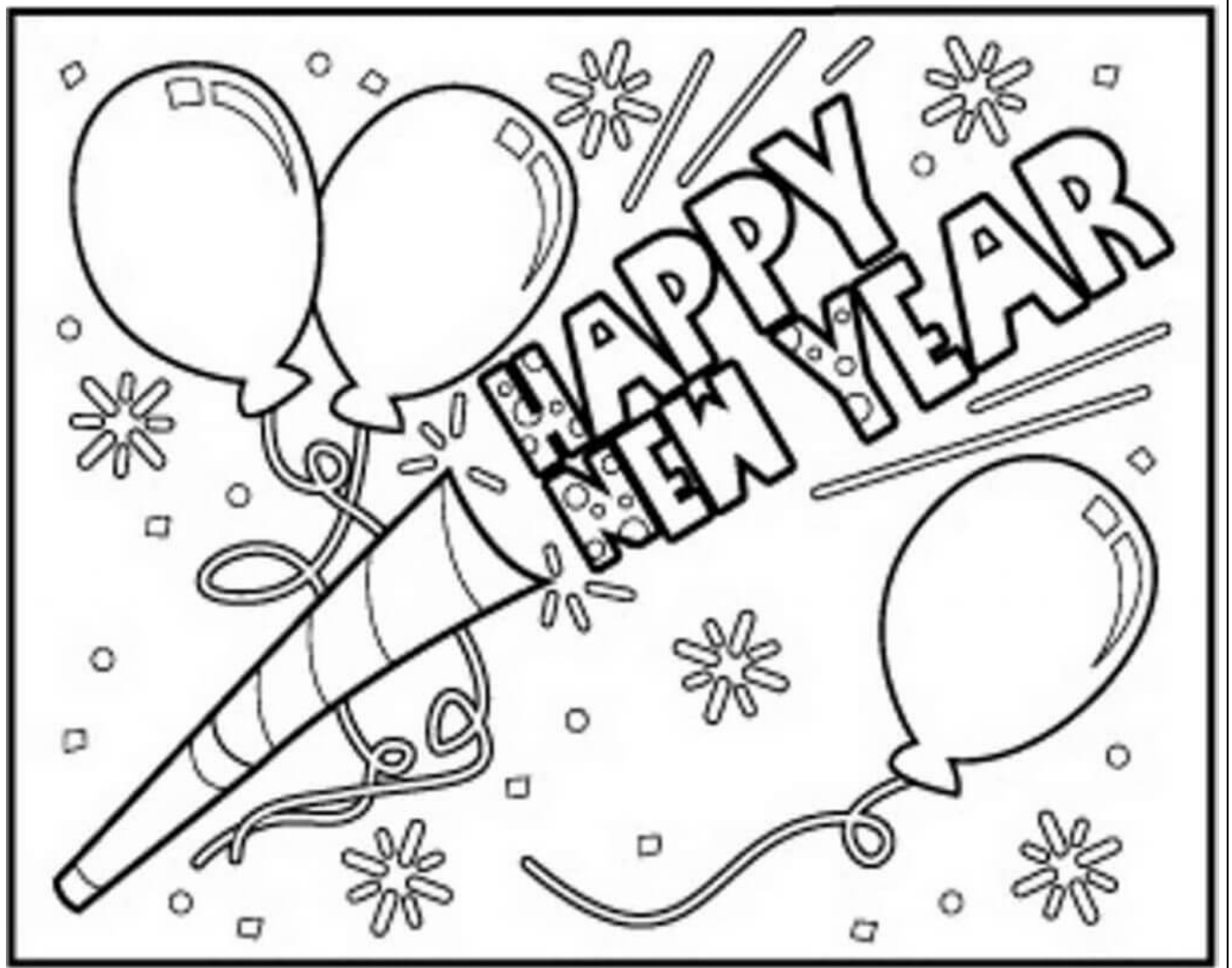
- 1. NASDAQ's TSLA
- 6. Meme dance move
- 9. Feudal laborer
- 13. Plant louse
- 14. Inflated feeling
- 15. Signaling flare
- 16. She turned to stone, Greek mythology
- 17. Barn call
- 18. L in AWOL
- 19. *Zodiac sign for those born on Halloween
- 21. *Ford "Zodiac"
- 23. Cash machine, acr.
- 24. Island
- 25. Short for although
- 28. Cul de ____, pl.
- 30. Owing something (2 words)
- 35. Argo's propellers
- 37. Mature
- 39. Passed
- 40. Guilty, e.g.
- 41. Presidential promises, e.g.
- 43. Those against
- 44. Waker-upper
- 46. Skin infection
- 47. King of beasts
- 48. *1960s California serial killer
- 50. Address a deity

- 52. Short for ensign
- 53. Hoodwink
- 55. New Zealand parrot
- 57. *Fish sign
- 60. *Half man/half horse sign
- 64. Blood vessel
- 65. This is well if it ends well
- 67. Body trunk
- 68. Move like ivy
- 69. Grazing field
- 70. Plant with liquorice-flavored seeds
- 71. Catch one's breath
- 72. Trim the lawn
- 73. Roebuck's partner

DOWN

- 1. Sun kisses
- 2. Colossal
- 3. Pest command
- 4. *Zodiac sign or Don DeLillo's 1988 novel
- 5. One who is skilled at something
- 6. Visual presentation
- 7. "Four score and seven years ____"
- 8. Dora the Explorer's simian friend
- 9. Court petitioner
- 10. Genesis twin
- 11. RPMs
- 12. Extra charge
- 15. Like a native speaker
- 20. Insect, post-

- metamorphosis
- 22. Prince in Disney's "Aladdin" movie
- 24. Heavy hydrogen, e.g.
- 25. *Birthstone for some born under Scorpio or Sagittarius
- 26. Hello, alt. sp.
- 27. Mountain nymph
- 29. *Cancer crustacean
- 31. Lentil soup
- 32. Golfer Els
- 33. Take a chance (2 words)
- 34. *Gemini
- 36. Delhi dress
- 38. Sound of a fan
- 42. Satisfy, as in thirst
- 45. Eccentric one
- 49. Pool tool
- 51. Gossipy ones
- 54. Religious song
- 56. Make amends
- 57. Skin opening
- 58. Wraths
- 59. Proofreader's mark
- 60. Old-fashioned bathtub foot
- 61. Vocal piece for one
- 62. Brezhnev's domain
- 63. Fish eggs, pl.
- 64. Acronym, abbr.
- 66. *#47 Across, in the sky



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Rock'n in the New Year

TOMMY MANN JR.
ENTERTAINMENT COLUMNIST
For The Record

The final week of 2023 has arrived and what a year it has been, but there have been several announcements already for summer of 2024 and it is shaping up to be a big year featuring numerous headlining artists around the region. Recently announced events include Def Leppard and Journey, Styx and Foreigner, Creed and 3 Doors Down, Limp Bizkit and so many others.

Check out the listings here and visit www.therecordlive.com for the full schedule that is currently available for the New Year.

- **Dec. 28**
Mannheim Steamroller, Smart Financial Center, Sugar Land
- **Dec. 29**
Toadies, House of Blues, Houston
- **Dec. 30**
Monica, NRG Arena, Houston
- **Jan. 12**
Mr. Big, Warehouse Live Midtown, Houston
- **Jan. 12**
Little River Band, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Jan. 13**
Keith Sweat, Dru Hill, Johnny Gill, Levelle, Smart Financial Centre, Sugar Land
- **Jan. 17**
Elvis Costello and the Imposters, House of Blues, Houston
- **Jan. 20**
The Oak Ridge Boys, Grand Opera House, Galveston
- **Jan. 21**
The Oak Ridge Boys, Grand Opera House, Galveston
- **Jan. 24**
Peezy, The Bronze Peacock Room, House of Blues, Houston
- **Jan. 26**
Bret Michaels, Jefferson Starship, Frank Ray, Ford Park Arena, Beaumont



Rock group Mr. Big will perform at the Warehouse Live Midtown location in Houston on Friday, Jan. 12, 2024. The band will perform its sophomore album, "Lean Into It," in its entirety as well.
RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.

- Ludacris, Smart Financial Center, Sugar Land, Dale Watson, Scout Bar, Houston
- **Jan. 27**
TobyMac, Cory Asbury, Mac Powell, Tasha Layton, Jon Reddick, Terrian, Ford Park Arena, Beaumont
- **Jan. 27**
Frank Foster, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Feb. 2**
Aaron Lewis, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Feb. 9**
Randy Rogers Band, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Feb. 16**
Eagles, Steely Dan, Toyota Center, Houston
- **Feb. 16**
Gladys Knight, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.

- **Feb. 16**
Cold War Kids, House of Blues, Houston
- **Feb. 17**
Collective Soul, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Feb. 19**
Machine Head, Fear Factory, Orbit Culture, House of Blues, Houston
- **Feb. 20**
Extreme, Living Colour, House of Blues, Houston
- **Feb. 23**
Los Lonely Boys, House of Blues, Houston
- **Feb. 24**
Shane Smith and the Saints, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **Feb. 2**
Godsmack, L'Auberge Casino Resort, Lake Charles, La.
- **Feb. 25**
Govt. Mule, Bayou Music Center, Houston
- **Feb. 27**
Crosses, House of Blues, Houston
- **Feb. 27**

ROCK'N 2024 Page 5B

New Year Resolutions: Strategies for a Successful Year

JOHN CRIMMINS, PhD
HealthNews.com

As we near the start of a new year, many of us will be forming new resolutions in an effort to improve our lives. While motivation may be great now, the road to lasting change is hazardous, especially as old habitual ways make themselves known. But happily, and in contrast, all of that is irrelevant if you have the right mindset and strive to work hard on your goals.

Why do people make New Year's resolutions?

People make New Year's resolutions for very good reasons. The anticipation of a new year creates a sense of new beginnings that will be accompanied by a blank slate, and this encourages self-examination as individuals ponder over what they might need to change or improve in life. That is why these resolutions are avenues for setting goals, pursuing self-improvement, and making positive change. Moreover, social media networking has made it possible for people to post their goals and resolutions, hence creating togetherness and support that keeps people motivated toward success.

Are New Year's resolutions effective?

Many surveys suggest that a substantial amount of people soon abandon their list of New Year's resolutions; however, in 2020, a study revealed an opposite perspective. As many as 55 % of the people polled in this study believed they had been able to maintain their resolutions for an entire year at a time.

What was even more interesting about the new study was that its findings suggested that people who set themselves smart goals and focus on approach (such as changing their sleeping or eating habits) do better still than people who set themselves avoidance goals (self-motivated to avoid something).

Ideas for resolutions

With the passing of one year and the arrival of another, many people are focusing on this time as an ideal opportunity for a new start. Personal health and well-being

are the most popular resolutions by a long shot, but there's no limit to the possibilities — you could diverge from any one of them.

Picking up a new skill, learning about personal finance or spirituality, or just enjoying ourselves more are all ways to live life in fuller measure. The most important thing is to discover objectives that match your interests and desires, then face them with a spirit of perseverance and kindness.

Although they can be difficult to stick to over the long term, New Year's resolutions are considered by many to have several benefits.

Here are some of the possible advantages:

Setting targets and striving to attain them enable you to learn new techniques, get knowledge on different aspects, and form a habit.

Losing weight, exercising more, or quitting smoking are among the health and fitness related goals people set for themselves as New Year's resolutions.

Goal setting provides you with purpose and direction.

Setting up and working toward New Year's resolutions may promote self-awareness and introspection.


Creating New Year's resolutions with friends, family, or co-workers helps build stronger relationships and connection in our society.

When you experiment with new goals outside your comfort zone, it opens the door for you to experience new things.


The importance of setting goals:

Goals are the stepping stones to a better life. They give a sense of direction, motivation, and purpose. With goals, we push ourselves to learn, mature, and accomplish something worthwhile. Goals also can help us concentrate efforts and eliminate distractions. They are an unambiguous statement of our objectives, and they keep us on course. The pride and accomplishment we feel when our goals are attained is actually the increase of self-esteem and confidence. In addition, goals are necessary for personal development.

RESOLVE TO SUCCEED Page 4B



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OUTDOORS

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OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

Any tackle geek knows they are the next great weapon in the angling arsenal, saltwater spinnerbaits have come to the coast and the redfish have a new enemy. They come in array of different colors and each one does a little something different that sets it apart from the competition. Truth be told there are 2 basic styles and they both do a great job catching fish. The most common style is the “safety pin” style, famous in bass fishing circles and the one most known by Texas anglers. The other is the “in line” version, a recruit from the north that was made famous on walleye lakes. Both of these baits have come to the tackle forefront and are producing excellent catches of several saltwater species, most notably redfish.

For many years several of the guides on Sabine Lake, including myself, fished clients on both Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend as well as Sabine. Over the years we found several baits that crossed the line from fresh to salt and produced in both environments. Plugs like the Rat-I-trap, Rogue, tube jigs and others stayed in our tackle boxes no matter where we fished. The spinnerbait joined that list when we found out we could catch largemouth bass and redfish in the same brackish water marshes that surround our area. Many times while night fishing on the Sabine River we caught mixed stringers containing both bass and redfish, the bait worked so well we turned our friends and clients onto the program. Now the rest of the fishing world has come to know the secret that many Louisiana anglers have known for years, the spinnerbait has a place in saltwater.

The typical pattern for using spinnerbaits in saltwater involves off colored water where sight fishing is difficult. The thump or vibration that blades put out is a top choice fish finding tool. Not only does the spinnerbait vibration make it easier to find fish you can cover plenty of water with the bait as well. A perfect example would be the “speed method” that B.A.S.S. angler Kevin Van Damm applies, he makes hundreds more cast than other guys on tour because he fishes his spinnerbaits so aggressively. By covering so much water you can rule unproductive areas quicker and with more confidence.

Now the spinnerbait can also be used in the clear water as well, they will catch fish in these conditions also. In the marshes around Sabine and Calcasieu we will routinely throw spinnerbaits at redfish we can see. A favorite technique is to pull the spinnerbait up to the fish and vary the retrieve by either allowing the bait to fall or “helicopter” down or to twitch the bait causing the skirt to flare out and mimic a wounded fish. Both of those techniques will result in bone jarring strikes from hungry redfish.

Now there are several different things you can do to an average spinnerbait that will make it more attractive to redfish. The most common is to remove the synthetic rubber skirt and replace it with a soft plastic; something with a paddle type tail is preferable. The combination of the blades and the paddle tail will put out extra vibration and the profile will look like a small shad or mullet, a winning formula to say the least. If you use a skirted spinnerbait you can also add a foam earplug or piece of sponge along the shank of the hook, this will add profile, buoyancy, and also hold any type of scent or attractant much longer.

The spinnerbait is an age old lure that has found a home in saltwater and should also have a home in your tackle box. Give them a try because they will certainly make you a better and more productive angler.

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

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

• Sabine Lake

GOOD. 60 degrees. Limits of trout and limits of redfish are good in the morning drifting points and bayous in Sabine Lake off the bottom with 3/4 ounce silver and gold spoons, or 3/4 ounce glo chartreuse 5 inch plastics. Early morning North Levee bite for speckled trout on topwaters, and 5 inch plastics, then live shrimp under a popping cork. Bank anglers are catching trout with live shrimp under a popping cork. Redfish and speckled trout are good in the Neches River fishing 3/4 ounce spoons under the birds on points and cuts as the shrimp come out of the marsh. Then fish buoys for bull redfish, slot, and sheepshead and drum with live shrimp on Carolina rig.

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

• Bolivar

GOOD. 60-65 degrees. Catches of redfish, sheepshead, big croaker, sand trout and whiting at the jetties using live or dead shrimp and finger mullet. Most catches of trout in East Bay. Flounder are at the jetty ready for the season to open December 15. Report by Shane Rilatt, North Jetty Bait Camp. The gift of consistent fishing patterns are under the tree this week. Fish deeper ends of the reefs or wind protected cuts with wind and cooler temperatures. The jetty holding sheepshead and trout on live shrimp close to rocks. Yates Slough’s holding redfish on grass lines close to Siever’s Cut. Stingaree to Rollover Pass holding redfish in deeper marshes on popping cork with shrimp and artificial twitch bait, or split tails. Report by Captain Raymond Wheatley, Tail Spotter Guide Service.

• Trinity Bay

GOOD. 60 degrees.



Limits of trout and limits of redfish are good in the morning drifting points and bayous in Sabine Lake off the bottom

Back of Trinity bay from the HL&P spillway to the mouth of the river producing fair numbers of speckled trout. Tabbs, Burnett, and Scott Bays are still the best bet for speckled trout, redfish, black drum, and sheepshead. Best on live shrimp under popping corks. Water is a bit off-colored due to runoff by recent rains. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Trinity Bay. Cold frontal bite on trout and

redfish. Trout can be caught in swim baits in rivers and creeks after a front. Redfish are on the same pattern and can be caught in soft plastics and live shrimp under a popping cork. Black drum and sheepshead can be caught in rock and dock structure under a pulling cork and free lining. Flounder can be caught on rocky drop-offs with gulp mullet and shrimp tied to a jig. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing

• East Galveston Bay

FAIR. 59-61 degrees. Those wading near the back bayou drains for catches of speckled trout. A few large fish have been caught by waders throwing artificial lures. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter. Surface water temperature 61 degrees and the water clarity is good. Strong North winds have once again forced us to adjust our tactics, concentrating in the back marsh areas where we can get some protection from the wind and waves. This week the redfish bite has been good in areas where the current flow has pushed bait against the shorelines and grass lines in 2-4 feet of water. Our best solid trout bite this week has been on ¼ ounce jig heads with the Deadly Dudley 5 inch Rat Tail in Blue Moon Chartreuse. Fishing deeper pockets with shells, triggering the most strikes. As in previous weeks if we do not see any nervous bait, we move on rather quickly and cover more water finding the zones where the fish are active. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Services, LLC. The gift of consistent fishing patterns are under the tree this week. North shore of Smith Pointe holding redfish and trout under the birds. Gas wells in East Bay holding black drums on the bottom with shrimp. Deep Reef to Whitehead Reef is holding fish under birds on twitch baits and soft plastic.

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Bears to host LCM/IP Basketball Classic

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The Christmas break has limited the games being played by the boys basketball teams in the eastern part of Orange County. All four teams will be participating in tournaments during the week leading up to the New Year.

The Bridge City Cardinals had a home game with Buna scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, cancelled because of a shortage of players for the Cougars. Three local Orange County teams took part in the Battle of the Border Tournament held in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

The Bridge City Cardinals won their game against St. Fredericks 65-54 on Wednesday, December 20. Aiden Gutierrez led four Cardinals registering in double figures with 20 points and 10 steals. Lincoln Breaux scored 14 points and had 7 rebounds. Aaden Bush also had 14 points with Jagger Carlin contributing 11 points.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville Bears were not as fortunate against Avoyelles Charter losing 53-45 in the same tournament on Thursday. Alan-



Andrew Cooper was the leading scorer for the Mustangs in their district opening win over Vidor and they will need more of the same from him when the district schedule resumes on January 2.

theon Winn scored 29 points for LCM.

The Orangefield Bobcats played Fairview out of Louisiana also on Thursday and won 71-35. The hottest shooter for the Bobcats was Jaden Scales who was 9 of 13 from the field scoring 21 points. Zane Wrinkle pulled off a double double with 11 points and 13 rebounds. Kane Smith came through with 12 points for Orangefield in the win.

Little Cypress Mauriceville will host the 4th Annual LCM/International Paper Classic basketball tournament on Thursday and Friday, December 28-29. A total of 32 games will be played over the two



High school basketball players will compose three of the teams competing in tournament to be held at Little Cypress Mauriceville High School on Thursday and Friday the last week of December.

days at both the Dr. Pauline Colburn Hargrove Gymnasium and the Bear Cave Gym at Little Cypress Mauriceville High School.

The Bridge City Cardinals will join the Bears in the tournament as will the LCM Junior Varsity and Freshmen teams. A special attraction will be teams from Australia participating. Three teams with elite high school

players from down under will be sure to draw a good crowd for their games.

The Little Cypress Mauriceville freshmen play at 9:00 AM in The Cave. The LCM varsity plays its first game in The Grove at 10:30 on Thursday morning and has a second game at 4:30 that afternoon. Bridge City has two games on Thursday in The Cave at 1:30 against the top Australian team and again

at 6:00 PM against Center.

On Friday morning the LCM JV faces the Australian JV in The Grove at 9:00 while the LCM Freshmen play at the same time in The Cave. That afternoon the Bears' varsity goes against Australia 1 in The Grove at 1:30 while at the same time Bridge City takes on Cleveland in The Cave.

The Cardinals wrap up their tournament action

against Hardin-Jefferson at 6:00 PM in The Grove. Little Cypress Mauriceville plays the final game of the tournament in The Grove at 7:30 PM against Woodville.

The West Orange-Stark Mustangs will spend the middle of the week in the Lee Tournament which will be held Wednesday and Thursday. The Orangefield Bobcats will participate in the Houston County Tournament held in Crockett and Grapeland, Texas.

District action resumes on Tuesday, January 2. Little Cypress Mauriceville had a bye back on December 15 so will be playing its first game of district at home against the 0-1 Bridge City Cardinals who lost their district opener to the Silsbee Tigers on December 15.

West Orange Stark will be looking for its second district win when the Mustangs play at Lumberton. WOS and the Raiders are 1-0 entering their game on Tuesday, January 2.

The Orangefield Bobcats at 1-0 in district are at home on Tuesday, January 2, against the Hardin Hornets. The contest will be the first of three straight district home games for the Bobcats.

Texans focused on overcoming injuries

Houston Texans
Press Room
Latest Release

Injuries have become one of the main story lines for the Houston Texans of late.

Of course, the headliner right now is quarterback C.J. Stroud (concussion), which has forced backups Case Keenum and Davis Mills into the spotlight at the position the past two weeks.

Keenum led the Texans to a 19-16 overtime road victory against the Titans a week ago.

On Sunday, the duo rotated during the game against the Browns. Mills was able to lead the Texans to a pair of late touchdown drives in the loss.

"It definitely changes things a little bit but it's the NFL, like you said everyone's dealing with it, we've got to find a way to execute more consistently with all 11 guys on offense for sure," Michael Deiter said. "We can do that. It's definitely not an excuse. It's a little bit of adversity, which is fine. Just makes



C.J. Stroud

things a little harder but isn't the end of the world. We just have to find a way to win."

On the defensive side of the ball, the team missed rookie defensive end Will Anderson Jr. for a second-straight week.

Early in the game against the Browns, the Texans faced a slew of new injuries, all on the same side of the ball.

In a matter of minutes in the opening quarter, safety Jimmie Ward (quad), defensive end Jonathan Greenard (ankle) and cornerback Steven Nelson (foot) were deemed

questionable to return due to injuries.

"We lost guys in this game," Texans Head Coach DeMeco Ryans said. "Injuries suck for everybody. It happens. But at the end of the day, there is still a game to be played. The game isn't going to stop because we have injuries. For us, and my mindset of how we attack, it is whoever steps in just do your job."

"Be where you're supposed to be. Everybody being where they're sup-

TEXANS Page 4B

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Resolve to Succeed: Strategies for 2024

From Page 1B

Strategies to achieve your New Year's resolution

Here are some effective tips for making a list of New Year's resolutions that will increase your chances of success:

- Don't aim at setting very high goals that you might not achieve within the period and lead to frustration instead. Rather than doing this, sub-divide your targets into small manageable steps. Concentrate on making a step-by-step improvement in your life.
- Vague resolutions like 'eat healthier' or 'exercise more' are less likely to succeed. Instead, define your goals clearly and set measurable benchmarks. For instance, instead of just saying 'eat healthier,' aim to increase your daily fruit and vegetable intake by 50% or reduce your intake of processed foods by 10%.
- It is important to know that significant changes do not occur overnight; therefore, it is necessary to set realistic timeframes for achieving them to allow yourself to adapt and change as required.
- Consider what could obstruct your progress and come up with solutions. If you find it difficult to keep up with regular exercise due to procrastination, there are ways that can be employed in order to make it more enjoyable, like involving oneself in group fitness or cooking new recipes with friends.
- Always reward yourself so as not to lose motivation. Give yourself something for achieving milestones or consistently moving toward goals.
- Surround yourself with people who are supportive and encourage your dreams when you feel like giving up. Communicate the resolutions with peers, relatives, or go as far as enrolling in a support group where you may stay motivated and accountable.
- Keep an eye on regular progress considering areas of improvement. Keep records of personal journaling through habit-tracking apps among other tools used in marking performance charts.
- There is no guarantee that things will happen exactly as you visualized them. In such cases, never give up on what one has already started but only change the strategies where necessary.
- Remember the reasons why you set the resolutions and what positive effect they would have on your life. Visualize your life after these resolutions are met, where you are proud of your accomplishments.
- One strategy that works for one person may be entirely different for another. Experimentation is important since it helps individuals to understand what keeps them motivated and passionate about certain things.

How artificial intelligence can help

Texans

From Page 1B

posed to be and doing what they're supposed to do still have a shot there. No matter what injury happens, still expect guys to go out there and do their best."

In the end, Ward was ruled out, which opened up that side of the field for rotation in the secondary.

The Texans rotated safeties DeAndre Houston-Carson and Adrian Amos into that spot at times to try and fill-in, while Nelson was able to return at times and Derek Stingley Jr. held down the opposite side.

"It's tough but we've been dealing with injuries all year," Stingley, who missed six games earlier this season due to injury, said. "Whoever goes in they do the best that they can do."

Houston-Carson and Stingley both reeled in an interception apiece during the game. It was Stingley's fifth pick of the season.

Up front, the Texans also lost their sack leader in Greenard for the remainder of the game after he exited with an ankle injury.

"It's tough but it is just a next-man mentality," defensive end Derek Barnett said. "Just trying to go in and do our jobs. Make plays and not have a drop-off. That's the mindset is next man up when one of the guys go down."

Entering the game, Greenard led the Texans with 12.5 sacks this season and also chipped in 52 tackles this year.

As the Texans lost a couple more players to injury, they were able to get leading receiver Nico Collins back on Sunday after he

missed last week and most of the Jets contest with a calf injury.

With the ups and downs of players getting hurt, coming back and injuries piling up at times, Collins said the ebbs and flows are all part of the game.

"It's hard, you don't want nobody to get hurt," Collins said. "It's part of football.

Players are going to get hurt, going to get a little banged up. You've got to continue to go, next man up, next person available. Play all four quarters. You're going to have nicks and bruises, it's part of the game, especially this late in the season. But we have to keep going, can't dwell on a person going down."

Artificial intelligence is also changing people's concepts concerning goal setting and the keeping of resolutions. Software tools powered by artificial intelligence are offering hands-on guidance, encouragement, and monitoring to aid people in their quests. Whether it be helping people get fit, change habits, or set and achieve their life's goals, AI is making the human race more autonomous.

From fitness trackers to personalized productivity tools and learning platforms — the applications of artificial intelligence for self-monitoring continue proliferating in our digital age. Virtual assistants and chatbots using artificial intelligence can also offer help, support, and encouragement while providing a sense of accountability in keeping people on task.

Avoiding the January blues

It is often in January when people start feeling down and demotivated. These melancholic or low mood feelings are what the term 'January blues' refers to. The end of festivities, back to work/school schedule, and lack of sunlight are some reasons for this.

Here are some strategies that may help you overcome the January blues:

- If you haven't followed all your New Year's resolutions, don't be too hard on yourself. In fact, the best thing is to concentrate on how far you've come and be gentle with yourself.
- Engage in regular physical activity. Endorphins have mood-elevating effects, and exercise increases their secretion. Get at least 30 minutes of moderate-intensity exercise on virtually all days.
- Prioritize sleep. Insufficient sleep also is linked with low mood and motivation. Strive to get at least 7–8 hours of sleep a night.
- Connect with others. Associating with friends or relatives, and engaging in social activities can also reduce your sense of loneliness.
- Take care of yourself. Eat healthy, drink lots of water, and do exercises like yoga or meditation to relax.
- Finally, with the coming of a brand new year, try to make sure that you create positive and fulfilling resolutions that bring about an effective balance in your total well-being. Make sure to take things slowly and be more forgiving to yourself as you pursue these goals. You will end up making great strides that are both lasting and healthy for your mind, body, and spirit.



The Orangefield HOSA-Future Health Professionals student organization along with the Health Science classes made Christmas cards and collected items to be donated to local long term living facilities, Focused Care and Stonewood. The HOSA officers delivered the items that will be used to spread holiday cheer.

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OC's girls basketball teams resume action Jan. 2

DAN PERRINE
Orange County Sports
For The Record

The local girls basketball teams have taken off for Christmas. The Orangefield Lady Bobcats, the Bridge City Lady Cardinals, the Little Cypress Mauriceville Lady Bears, and the West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs will resume district competition on Tuesday, January 2.

The Orangefield Lady Bobcats did play twice before Christmas and won both games. The Lady Bobcats beat Lumberton in a good game 51-43 on Tuesday, December 19 at Orangefield.

Post Greenlea Oldham had her second double double in the last two weeks with 11 points and 13 rebounds. Mikayla

Locke scored 10 points and made 4 steals for Orangefield. Olivia Smith who saw time with the varsity during the Bill Tennison Tournament had another strong game pitching in 9 points and grabbing 6 rebounds. Kaylea Gravett added 6 points with 4 steals, and Rebecca Durbin tossed in 6 points while snaring 5 rebounds for the Lady Bobcats in the win.

On Friday, December 22, Orangefield went to Beaumont to play Kelly and came away with 42-30 victory. The Lady Bobcats used a big fourth quarter to secure the triumph.

Rebecca Durbin and Greenlea Oldham were big in the middle for the Lady Bobcats combining for 14 points and 12 rebounds. Brooklyn Wagoner tied Durbin as the high scorer



Rylynn Thornton has been a key contributor for the Lady Cardinals in their early district games.

for Orangefield with 8 points and additionally had 4 rebounds. Bri Moore scored 6 points with a pair of three point baskets. Mikayla Locke led the team in rebounds with 10 while also handing out a pair of assists and drawing a charge.



Bri Moore hit two big three pointers for the Lady Bobcats in their win over Kelly.

The Lady Bobcats will enjoy the remainder of the Christmas break off and resume action in the New Year. Orangefield is 2-1 in District 21-3A and play at home on Tuesday, January 2, against Hardin.

The West Orange-Stark Lady Mustangs were the

only other local girls team to play a game the week before Christmas. The Lady Mustangs fell 69-35 to Lake Charles Barbe on December 19. West Orange-Stark's next game will be January 2 at home against Lumberton a District 19-4A opponent.

The scheduled game for December 18 at Bridge City between the Lady Cardinals and Sabine Pass was cancelled because of a shortage of available players for the visiting team. Bridge City will participate in the Wimberley Tournament the weekend before the New Year.

The Lady Cardinals will play two games on Thursday and two games on Friday, December 28-29. A final seating game will be held on Saturday morning before the finals conclude

the tournament that afternoon.

Bridge City is 2-1 in District 19-4A. The Lady Cardinals go to Little Cypress Mauriceville to play the Lady Bears on Tuesday, January 2.

Little Cypress Mauriceville competes in the East Chambers Tournament the week after Christmas. The Lady Bears will play games on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, December 27-29, in Winnie.

The Lady Bears enter their home game at the Dr. Pauline Colburn Hargrove Gymnasium against Bridge City with a record of 1-1 in district. LCM defeated West Orange-Stark earlier before losing two weeks ago to the first place Silsbee Lady Tigers who also handed Bridge City its only district loss.

Dak reacts to narrow loss to Dolphins, Dallas outlook

Dallas Cowboys
News Service

MIAMI, Fla. — Dak Prescott and the offense got off to a blazing-hot start on their first drive of the game against the Miami Dolphins, but things came to a screeching halt by way of a fumbled handoff on the one-yard line that wiped the potential for any points off of the board; and the Dallas Cowboys spent the remainder of the game chasing their breath.

It was a far better showing than the one put on film against the Buffalo Bills, but ultimately wasn't enough as they fell 22-20 on a game-winning field goal as time expired in Miami.

"It's frustrating," said quarterback Dak Prescott.

They now fall to 3-5 on the road and the struggles with untimely penalties and, in the absence of Tyrone Smith, protection on dropbacks resurfaced in a big way.

Prescott, with the assistance of CeeDee Lamb and a fourth-quarter toe drag touchdown by Brandin Cooks to give the Cowboys a lead with less than four minutes left in regulation, nearly overcame several stalled drives to deliver a harrowing comeback victory against one of the best teams in the NFL.

A facemask penalty on the final Cowboys' defensive drive not only jump started the eventual game-winning drive for the Dolphins, but it marked the latest road error the Cowboys couldn't afford to make. This contest felt eerily like what occurred in Philadelphia against the Eagles, in that it was a game of inches the Cowboys



Dak Prescott, with the assistance of CeeDee Lamb and a fourth-quarter toe drag touchdown by Brandin Cooks to give the Cowboys a lead with less than four minutes left in regulation, nearly overcame several stalled drives to deliver a harrowing comeback victory against one of the best teams in the NFL.

should've won, if not for self-inflicted wounds that put the victory narrowly out of their reach.

"It's frustrating that [we had a] dead spot in the middle of the game for the offense after the first two drives, when we couldn't get anything going again," said Prescott. "We come back in the second half and we're a little dry there [as well]. We finally got rolling and got some points on the board and took the lead, and our defense did a hell of a job."

"This is one that's on everybody and it sucks, but we definitely took a step over last week's game in getting some points. We played a hell of a team here on the road, and we'll have to build off of it. We'll have to use the good and make sure we get better from the things that weren't up to standard."

Of course, this will em-

bolden the narrative that says the Cowboys can't defeat good teams on the road, and that they will have a difficult time achieving a deep playoff run because of it.

"I guess it feeds [the narrative], we didn't come out with the win," said Prescott. "But I can tell you the confidence is high with this group. It sucks. It hurts, especially in the manner in which we lost this one. But the confidence is high and we understand we can. Obviously, we haven't done it but we will. And it looks like we'll be going on the road [in the playoffs]."

We've got one more this regular season to dial it in, get a win and carry it over."

Up next comes the Detroit Lions, one of the best teams in the NFC and one that can not be overlooked, particularly if you're the Cowboys — trying to stop the bleeding of a two-game

losing streak (their first since November 2021).

"It's about moving forward and understanding what's ahead of us" Prescott added. "And we're gonna improve again and, obviously, we're going back home on Saturday and it's a place we've been winning

but we've got to make sure we can't lean on the fact we're at home. This isn't gonna be easy. This is another great team coming in."

After that, they'll have one more chance, and just one, to try and cure their road ills without conse-

quence, because up next comes January and it's either win ... or go home for good.

"We've gotta defend that and then take that confidence, go out to Washington and get that win," said Prescott. "And that'll be the one that starts the streak."

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Rock'n 2024 concerts From Page 1B

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- **Feb. 29**
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- **March 2**
Los Lonely Boys, L'Auberge Casino Resort, Lake Charles, La.
- **March 2**
The Union Underground, Soil, Ra, Flaw, Scout Bar, Houston
- **March 2**
Blue October, 713 Music Hall, Houston
- **March 7**
Early Eyes, Trash Panda, White Oak Music Hall, Houston
- **March 7**

- The Kills, House of Blues, Houston
- **March 14**
Sasha Colby, House of Blues, Houston
- **March 15**
Geoff Tate, Vandenberg, House of Blues, Houston
- **March 16**
Brian Stokes Mitchell, Grand Opera House, Galveston
- **March 19**
Circle Jerks, Descendants, House of Blues, Houston
- **March 23**
Los Lobos, L'Auberge Casino Resort, Lake Charles, La.
- **March 28**
Madonna, Toyota Center, Houston
- **March 28**
Busta Rhymes, Spliff Star, DJ Scratchator, 713 Music Hall, Houston

- **March 29**
Madonna, Toyota Center, Houston
- **March 29**
Ministry, House of Blues, Houston
- **March 30**
Waterparks, Loveless, House of Blues, Houston
- **April 5**
Home Free, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- **April 6**
Eric Johnson, House of Blues, Houston
- **April 9**
Starset, House of Blues, Houston
- **April 12**
Parker McCollum, Corey Kent, Lake Charles Civic Center, Lake Charles, La.
- **April 13**
Primus, A Perfect Circle, Puscifer, Cynthia Woods Mitchell Pavilion

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A New Year Worthy of God

Marshall Segal
Staff Writer
desiringGod.org

Before you make resolves for the new year — before you start a reading plan, or choose a diet, or buy a journal, or step on a treadmill — find a why worth changing for. As many more have observed before me, our resolutions often wilt because we didn't have a why big enough to weather the inevitable temptations, distractions, and setbacks.

So what will your why be for the year to come? For me, I want my life to prove the worth of my calling from God. Not my calling to ministry, but my calling to God — the calling every genuine Christian shares. My why comes from 2 Thessalonians 1:11:

“To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power.”

What evidence do we see in our lives that we have been called by God?

Could We Ever Be Worthy?

Does a Christian resolution for worthiness rub you the wrong way? “We pray for you that our God may make you worthy of his calling.” But none of us is worthy of this calling. Surely the apostle Paul knew that more than anyone.

None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands; no one seeks for God. All have turned aside; together



they have become worthless; no one does good, not even one. (Romans 3:10–12)

How could a sinner ever merit anything from God? We can't. And yet God himself says, through his apostle, that we can be considered — by God — worthy of his calling. What would that mean? Not that we could ever earn or deserve this calling, but that we could increasingly honor the calling we have received by grace alone, based on the merits of Christ alone.

Godliness Honors God

Apart from Christ, we will never deserve to be called children of God, but we can still disgrace the calling we have been freely given — or we can adorn our precious calling with an ambitious godliness. “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works . . . so that in everything [you] may adorn the doctrine of

God our Savior” (Titus 2:7, 10). Our lives can become a wild, grace-filled bouquet laid upon the saving and sufficient work of Jesus — a worthy reflection of his love, his cross, his power, his worth.

Again, Paul says, “[We pray] that our God may make you worthy of his calling . . . so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ” (2 Thessalonians 1:11–12). This is the worthiness of another world. As it grows and spreads in a redeemed life, it doesn't welcome praise to itself, but gladly bows to worship Christ. The worthiness God finds in us glorifies the greatness of Jesus.

Our worthiness proves his worth, not ours. Why? Because worthiness in us is an evidence and expression of his grace. God makes us worthy “according to the

grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”

Worthiness in Real Life

So what might this worthiness look like in another new year? A few verses earlier, Paul unfolds the worthiness he sees blossoming in the Thessalonian church:

We ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly, and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring. This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be considered worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering. (2 Thessalonians 1:3–5)

How specifically was

their worthiness displayed? Their faith and love held fast through suffering. And not just held fast, but grew. And not just grew, but grew abundantly. The apostle could see that God was for them and in them, because they were seeking God with greater intensity, trusting him with greater peace, and loving one another with greater devotion. Greater — greater faith, greater love, greater patience, greater peace, greater discipline, greater joy — greater is a worthy resolve for a new year.

Where, specifically, could you grow abundantly in the next year? What area of your spiritual life and love for others needs to be revived or nurtured toward greater maturity? Find a greater resolve to focus on, and hold onto, as you step into another January.

Made Worthy in the Valley

Don't miss that the church in Thessalonica was made more worthy through their suffering. “We ourselves boast about you in the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith in all your persecutions and in the afflictions that you are enduring” (2 Thessalonians 1:4). Their hardships had become a dark and painful backdrop on which their faithfulness could shine.

Would anyone have seen their steadfastness in Christ if they hadn't experienced adversity? Suffering, for them, offered an opportunity to experience more of God's strength and mercy, and suffering also made it easier for others to see the God who was motivating and sustaining them.

How might that change how we think about the sufferings that will come over the next year?

The Who in Good Resolves

New resolves often fail without a well-defined, deeply-felt why, but they also fail because of a misplaced who.


Look carefully, again, at verse 11: “To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling and may fulfill every resolve for good and every work of faith by his power.” Who makes our lives worthy of such a calling? God does. Who fulfills our resolves for good and our works of faith? God does. Whose power will be the decisive agent for lasting change in our lives? His power.

Good resolves begin and end with God. Which means good resolves begin and persevere through prayer. And so Paul does not merely charge the Thessalonians to live worthy of their calling; he prays for them to be made worthy. “To this end we always pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling. . . .”

So how might we pray for greater faith and love in the new year?

Lord, I am not content to have last year's love for you. I want a deeper, sweeter, more active faith in you. Nurture what you have planted in my soul. Prune away more of my remaining sin. Make the sufferings to come magnify your work in me. By whatever means necessary, cause me to grow and to grow abundantly. In Jesus's name and for his greater glory in us, Amen.

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Triangle Baptist Church
6446 Garrison at Hwy. 408 Orangefield
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Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.
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200 W. Roundbunch
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www.fbcbc.org
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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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Wed. Bible Study - 6 p.m. Worship 7:30 p.m. YIM Youth 6 p.m.
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Dr. Rev. Samuel Karunanithi - Pastor
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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

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