

The Penny Record

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Week of Wednesday, December 22, 2021



Robert Ramirez, owner of Robert's Meat Market and Steakhouse, 3720 W. Park Avenue in Orange, looks over the banquet rooms awaiting new ceilings and furniture after last summer's fire. RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

Robert's meat market owner eyes reopening

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Christmas will taste different this year for many Orange County fans of Christmas turkey.

Robert Ramirez says he normally prepares 300 fried turkeys and 200 more smoked turkeys for customers.

Someone else is getting that business this year.

But not for long, Ramirez said.

He hopes to reopen Robert's Meat Market as soon as his new equipment comes in.

And, in a departure from earlier statements made after a fire in July brought his business to a halt, Ramirez says he now plans to reopen his adjoining Steakhouse restaurant – but only for lunch.

He hopes to have it open by Easter.

"I'm just waiting on equipment," Ramirez said. "I ordered walk-in coolers a

few weeks ago. I ordered walk-in coolers a

ROBERT'S MARKET Page 3A

Christmas in the County



Santa and snowmen wave to passersby at Orange County Courthouse.



Minion Santa Claus rides his sleigh in front of Orange County Courthouse.



Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and elves prepare for Dec. 25 in Bridgefield Estates in Bridge City. RECORD PHOTOS: Dave Rogers

New owners drive Orange County's Ford dealership



Mitchell and Susanty Roberts, co-owners of Roberts Ford, join Susanty's husband, Craig Roberts, and General Manager Will Palasota to introduce themselves to Orange after recently purchasing Sabine River Ford at 1601 Green Avenue. RECORD PHOTO: Lawrence Trimm

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Susanty Roberts' background is in finance. Husband Craig Roberts has been in the car biz since he got out of the service during the Cold War.

Together, they hope to bring some sizzle to Orange automobile sales with their purchase of Sabine River Ford earlier this month.

The new Roberts Ford is open for business with a lot full of gleaming F-150, F-250 and F-350 pickups ready to drive out.

"We're here to help the community," Susanty said, "and hope the community will help us. We want everybody to work together."

The car business is in a state of change, thanks to supply chain shortages caused by factory shutdowns around the world the past two years as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

"We're stocked up on used cars but we have no control

over new cars right now," her husband, Craig, said. "They're allotting us some. We'll probably have them back on the lot in 60 to 90 days."

"But the manufacturers have figured out it's more profitable when the new cars are already sold [when shipped]."

Susanty Roberts, a native of Indonesia, came to the United States from her home country of Indonesia nearly two decades ago, earning a finance degree from McNeese State and an MBA from Tulane.

She worked in finance for a commercial real estate company, then was controller for an independent car dealer service managing a \$25 million portfolio.

"She worked for a friend of mine," Craig Roberts says, explaining how the couple met.

Craig and Susanty were partners in business before they married five years ago. Most recently Craig, Susan-



Orange's longtime Ford dealership at 1601 Green Avenue has new ownership and a new name, Roberts Ford but the same friendly service. RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

ty and Mitchell Roberts, Craig's son, worked together managing a used car dealership, Arriba Motors, in suburban Houston.

A native of Wisconsin, Craig Roberts served in the military abroad, mostly along the Berlin Wall in West Germany, before landing in a Houston car dealership.

"I've been at for 38 years," he said. "My son [Mitchell]

has been with me since he's been walking and my wife liked the car business, and wanted to get into the car business with me.

"She wanted to be in the new car business."

Susanty and her stepson Mitchell are the dealership's co-owners. Craig Roberts is a partner.

Will Palasota, general

ROBERTSFORD Page 3A

LSCO salutes 146 first-gen graduates

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Seventy-seven percent of Lamar State College Orange's 190 Fall 2021 graduates are first-generation college students.

That figure is music to the ears of Dr. Tom Johnson, the school's president. Johnson and his siblings were the first in their family to attend college and he started at a two-year institution like LSCO.

A total of 270 degrees and certificates were awarded earlier this month – 124 of which were associate's degrees and 146 were certificates of completion. Nine institutional awards were given out as well.

Average grade-point average of the graduates was 2.96.

The average age of graduating students was 29. The youngest grad was 18, the oldest was 62.

Sixty-eight percent were female and 68 percent of the graduates were part-time students. Seventy percent of grads were in technical programs, 30 percent academic programs.

A majority – 58 percent – of graduates were from Orange County, while Louisiana residents accounted for 14 percent of grads.

Other neighboring counties accounted for 25 percent of the grads: Jefferson 12 percent; Hardin 6 percent; Jasper 5 percent; Newton 2 percent.

Tyler, Harris and Galveston counties were home to 1 percent of the grads each.

Earning top Summa Cum Laude honors were Peyton Beebe, Remi Cobb, Clara Eude, Joshua Flynn, Payton Gereau, Cayla Hodge, Jonah Landry, Kareem Ochoa, Hannah Ortego, Chloe Overstreet and Kevin Thompson. Magna Cum Laude honors



Lamar State College-Orange

went to Hannah Campbell, Nicholas Cox, Sydney Hanson, Tammy Jarreau, Alex Jimenex, Caden Oquinn, Jessica Peet, Blake Peveto, Elijah Reynolds, Corbin Ward, Jentzi Wilson.

Cum Laude graduates Billie Askew, Kevin Cameron, Jeesele Dewitt, Rylee Gore,

Chloe Haliburton, Jeannie Hanson, Madison Hess, Karrie McKeown, Hanna Sadler.

Graduation ceremonies were held Friday, Dec. 17 at The Lutchter Theater in downtown Orange. Mayor Larry Spears, Jr., of Orange was the commencement speaker.

Real people once answered the phone

CARL PARKER
For The Record

If you are over 60 years old there is an additional plague attacking you rather than the current virus. I am absolutely convinced that computers were invented to drive us old folks crazy.

Remember when phones were answered by humans? And the only folks with numbers were convicts? How many passwords do you have? Better yet, how many passwords do you have that you remember? Once upon a time ordering from Sear & Roebuck catalog and making phone calls was a simple matter. Now with any of those functions you are faced with a password you may, or may not remember.

I don't know about you, but when I sit at my computer, I



Carl Parker has practiced law in Port Arthur since 1958. He is a 1958 graduate of the University of Texas School of Law. Elected to the Texas House of Representatives in 1962 and the Senate in 1976.

feel completely dumfounded unless one of my grandchildren happens to be around

to give me assistance.

Once upon a time when you called your doctor, you were greeted by a friendly nurse who most of the time could answer the question plaguing you about your health without the necessity of making an appointment with the doctor or bothering him/her. Now when you attempt to reach your physician you will first be greeted by the instructions to call 911 if the matter you are calling about seems to be serious.

Thereafter, depending on

how many physicians there may be answering this particular machine, you will be given a series of numbers depending on whether you want an appointment, have a question about your prescription or seek to talk to a particular physician or nurse; most of the time none fit the reason for my call. If you are lucky when you select one of the numbers, you will get a person. Often what you get is simply a message that person is not available and may or may not call you back within 24 hours.

A major frustration occurs if you call a business and desire to speak with a representative you have dealt with, you are greeted by a machine recording instructing you to spell out the name of the person with whom you wish to talk.

Often, I have no idea how to spell the name of the representative I have been dealing with, even if I happen to remember it! In addition to being frustrated by this, most of the time you will be put on hold and subjected to a lengthy litany of advertisements, or elevator music followed by a message that "this call may be recorded"; I wonder

if they ever listen to them?

There are many things I do not miss about the so-called "good ole days." I enjoy plumbing, being free from stifling heat in my air-conditioned house, better automobiles I don't have to deal with the shift on the floor and nice programs on my TV other than the wrestling from Houston.

Nonetheless, I still yearn for the good ole days, particularly when telephone calls were handled by human beings who could give me a straight answer after promptly answering my call.

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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After graduating top of his class at Baylor Law School, Orange native Tommy Gunn began practicing law in Orange County in 1976. As an attorney he has devoted his life to providing legal assistance to Orange County residents and businesses in virtually every aspect of general law.

Advocating for the good of the Orange County community, Tommy is a former President of the Bridge City Independent School District school board and a past President of the Bridge City-Orangefield Rotary Club. He is also a former Director of the Orange Chamber of Commerce and serves as City Attorney for the City of Pinehurst since 1988. At present, Tommy is a former director and Chairman of the Board of Orange Savings Bank and First Financial Bank.



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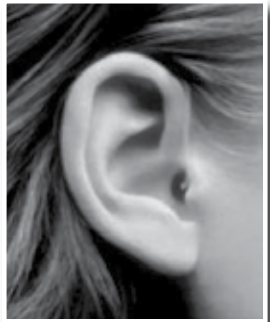
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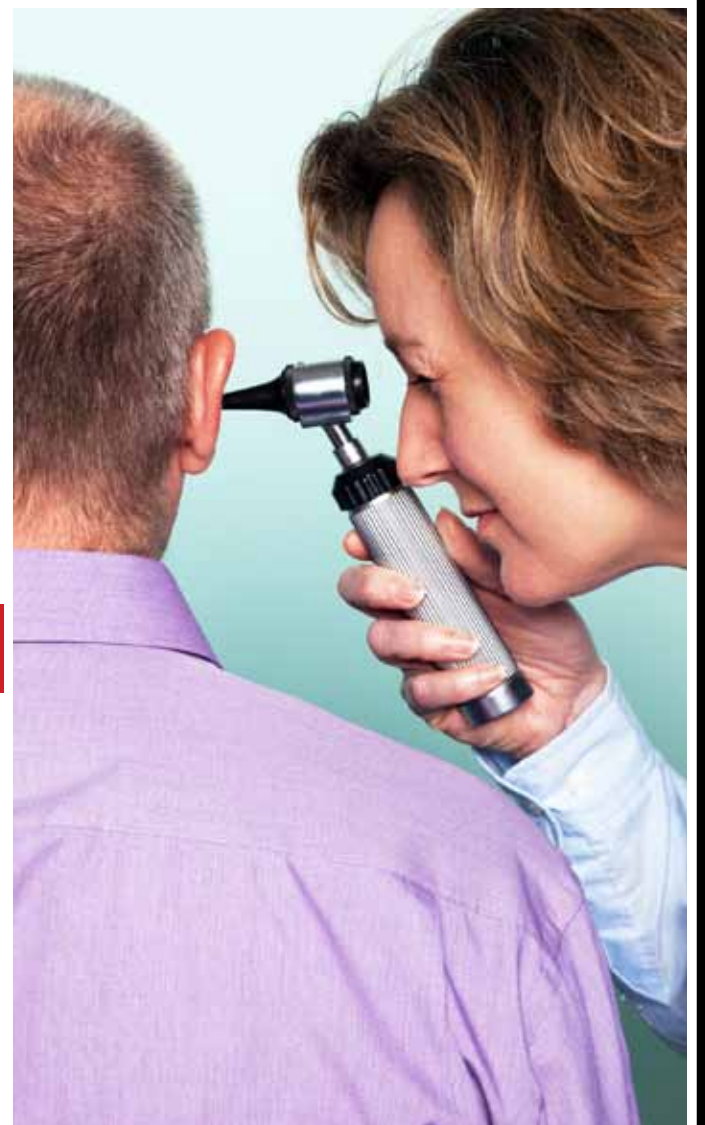
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The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce announced that Coach Cody McGuire, Employee Bridge City High School, has been named December Employee of the Month. Pictured Left to Right: Rachel McGuire, Case McGuire, Coach Cody McGuire, JoLee McGuire, Stoney McGuire and Candace Mulholan.



The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce announced that Granger Chevrolet was named Business of the Month for December 2021. The Board chose Granger Chevrolet as Business of the Month for December 2021 for their continued support of the Bridge City Chamber by sponsoring a table at the events. Pictured are Al Granger, Ralf Mims, Bobby Wilkins, Maureen McAllister and Team Granger.



Kember Ess was named the November Bridge City Student of the Month for by the Bridge City/Orangefield Rotary Club. Kember ranks 62 out of a class of 196. She plans to Major in Speech Pathology. Accompanying her were parents David and Lori Ess, grandfather Tod Mixson, sister K'Lynn Borg, nieces Easton and Braelynn Borg, BCHS Principal Tim Woolley, Counselor Lisa Huckaby and Rotary President Meg Brown.

Friends of the Orange Depot board meeting

The annual board meeting and dinner for the Friends of the Orange Depot will be held on Thursday, January 6, at 5:30 PM. The meeting will be at the depot located at 1210 Green Avenue.

The newly elected president, Alicia Booker, will preside. As usual, there will be updates on Christmas season events that were held, as well as discussions on projects for the new year.

All attending should respond to Rose Simar, Depot Manager, prior to the meeting.

Wesley UMC Pecan and Walnut Fundraiser

Wesley United Methodist Church will be selling this years crop of Durham/Ellis pecans and walnuts, delivery early November. Pecan halves or pieces \$10.50 per pound, walnuts \$8.50 per pound. Call Jan 409-734-8036 or the church 409-886-7276 to place an order or for additional information.

Orange County Judge
John Gothia

Roberts Ford opens in Orange From Page 1

manager at Roberts Ford, has 26 years experience with large dealerships, in in Dallas and South Carolina, most of it as general manager.

"What most people don't understand is that there are only 17,000 factory franchises in the United States," Palasota said. "A Ford dealership is the hardest franchise to get and their approval was very smooth – especially for a first-time franchise store."

"They decided not so long ago [to apply for a franchise]

and all of a sudden, they're franchise owners."

The Robertses appreciate Ford's acceptance.

"We are very fortunate," Craig Roberts said. "Susanty is a structured person. She knows the only way to survive is to be connected to a manufacturer like Ford."

Palasota appreciates diversity.

"We're all from different backgrounds. We all grew up different ways," he said.

"Mitch has been working with Craig 30 years. But all

the individuals worked together to make it work."

The new owners do not mean sweeping changes.

"We kept all the old employees – 47 of them," Craig Roberts said. "Some of these people have worked here for 40 years."

"We didn't want to change everything for the community. We wanted to keep it status quo."

"We're trying to learn as much as we can from them. We need each other."

Robert's market reopening From Page 1

month ago. They've been saying, 'Next week, next week,' for about a month.

"And the same goes for the restaurant equipment, the tables and chairs."

The July 29 fire was at the back of the structure at 3720 W. Park that housed the meat market and the restaurant that seated up to 400.

But smoke and water damage ruined most everything.

"It's been a nightmare," Ramirez said. "One of the reasons I'm not trying to open the restaurant so fast is because of Covid."

The outbreak of COVID-19 in March of 2020 caused a two month break in in-person dining, then initially allowed just a 25% occupancy for a time.

Subsequent spikes, tied to holiday gatherings and the introduction of the delta and omicron variants, have dragged out the changes in business as usual.

Initially after July's fire, Ramirez was able to use many of his 40-plus employees to clean out the damage. A half dozen of those are still working to rebuild and re-touch things.

This week, workers power



An employee works Monday to paint the ceiling of the main dining room of the restaurant at Robert's Meat Market and Steakhouse as repairs continue after a fire earlier this year.

RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

washed the sidewalk in front of the building while others painted ceilings and trim work.

The rebuild includes a 60-foot addition to the back of the building, which will allow additional dining space.

Ramirez says he doesn't expect any supply chain problems with his food.

"I shouldn't have any prob-

lems getting meat," he said. "I've stayed in touch with my suppliers."

"The problem is everything's price is so high now. Nobody asks, 'How much is it?' just 'Do you have it?'"

Ramirez opened his Meat Market in 1980 on Simmons Drive. It has operated at the Park Avenue location since 1990.

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From The Creaux's Nest

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM CEAUX AND I

Here's hoping you have a blessed **Christmas and Holiday Season**. When I was a boy we would have been disappointed with the **Christmastime** weather. Our favorite **Christmas** meal was fried, wild rabbit. No one could season and fry rabbit like my Grandma, **NOBODY**. We didn't have rabbit until after the first heavy frost killed the parasites rabbits carry. For a big gathering, **Grandma** made rabbit stew in a large cast iron pot served on a bed of rice. We never ate turkey. I don't believe I ever saw a live turkey back then. There were times we might have had duck or goose gumbo but mostly we had rooster gumbo. The oldest, toughest my **Grandma** could find. I don't believe cranberry was invented yet. If it was it didn't make it to our shack. Here's hoping you have a great meal. We usually have wild duck furnished by **Capt. Chuck Uzzel** on Christmas or New Year but it must have been a bad year for duck hunting. We didn't get any ducks. First time in eight years.****I have to move on. **Come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.**

TODD DODGE FEATURED IN TEXAS MONTHLY

One of the best high school sports stories I've ever read is in this month's **Texas Monthly** magazine. It's a long feature about the life of **Coach Todd Dodge** starting at age 5-years-old to present. The introduction to the feature story starts, "Good luck finding a Texan who has lived a more complete football life than **Westlake High School** coach **Todd Dodge**." Now in his final season before retirement, the six time state champion is looking to add one more trophy to his mantel. That state championship game would be coming up this past Saturday against **Denton-Guyer**. Back in high school at **Port Arthur Thomas Jefferson**, **Dodge** was coached by **Ronnie Thompson**, who was the Godfather of the passing game in high school football. He took **Dodge** under his wing and the results in 1980 was **T.J. Yellow Jackets** played **Odesa** for the state championship. **Dodge** had thrown for 3,137 yards in his senior year. Soon afterwards he was flown to New York to receive the **Hertz #1** award given to the top high school athlete. **O.J. Simpson** presented **Dodge** the trophy, then it was off to the **University of Texas Austin**. Another great story is on his life's work. The **Texas Monthly** feature is loaded with so many wonderful stories. I wish everyone could read it. He and **Jimmy Johnson** are the two most successful coaches to come out of **Thomas Jefferson**. How did **Dodge** do in his final game, Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021?

Here's how the A.P. wrote it up.

Todd Dodge capped a storied career by leading **Austin Westlake** to its third consecutive state championship with a 40-21 victory over **Denton Guyer** on Saturday night. **Dodge** announced his retirement before his 23rd season as a head coach after he was a trailblazing passing quarterback at **Port Arthur Thomas Jefferson** before becoming a starter with the **Texas Longhorns**. "I have three beautiful grandchildren. I want to be a paw-paw for those guys," **Dodge** said after the game. "My mother is 83 years old and still knows who I am, and I want to spend as much time as I can with her." The seven coaching championships came in bunches for **Dodge**. Before the 58-year-old's career ending run with **Westlake**, **Dodge** led **Southlake Carroll** to four titles and a 79-1 record in a five-season span from 2002-06. Only three head coaches in Texas have won more titles than **Dodge**, who leaves with **Westlake** on a similar run to his **Carroll** tenure with a 45-1 record covering three consecutive titles. The record of his teams in his seven championship seasons was 124-2. **Dodge** won his sixth title and second at **Westlake** last season by beating his son **Riley Dodge**, the coach at **Carroll** and his former quarterback at the Dallas-area school. All of **Dodge's** championships came in the state's highest classification, including the **Class 6A Division II** title this season. As a senior at **Port Arthur Thomas Jefferson** in 1980, **Dodge** set the record for most passing yards in a season and became the first quarterback in **Texas** high school football history to pass for more than 3,000 yards in a season (3,135 yards). That same season, he led **Thomas Jefferson** to the 1980 Class 5A state championship game against **Odesa-Premian**. (Side Bar: Bridge City A.D. head football coach, **Cody McGuire**, was an assistant under **Dodge** at **West Lake**. The way they played wide open football takes an excellent quarterback. **Todd** had five all-state quarterbacks. According to **Dave Rogers**, longtime sports writer, **Todd** was also a resident of Orange before junior high.)

GIVE YOURSELF A GIFT (Be Sensible Get A Shot)

Christmas for most folks will be better than last year because of vaccinations. The pandemic is not as bad, however, we are in for a really dangerous road ahead. Come late January and early February, the **Omicron** virus will arrive in full force. It will soon be spreading at staggering speed. The highly transmissible variant is likely to take hold in the coming weeks. It is a real fear for the citizens of **Orange County** because less than **39 percent** of citizens are vaccinated. We are one of the worse counties in **Texas**. This virus is an emergency. **You can get to the enemy before it gets you with a shot.** Prevent illness and lifetime side effects from having had even a mild case. Talk to any-

one who has had the virus, ask **Coach Cornell Thompson** about before and after the virus. **A shot is free.** See ad in this paper, do the right thing, call the number to make an appointment.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2011

Curtis Lee, a friend of 50 years, died the day after Christmas, Dec. 26. Services were held Thursday, Dec. 29, handled by Grammier-Oberle funeral Home in Port Arthur. **Curtis** was one of the hardest working guys I've ever known. He was a pioneer in Bridge City having opened the **Dip-O Drive Inn** Restaurant back in the early 70s and was longtime owner of **Curtis Lee Texaco** station and other businesses. **W.T. Oliver** always called **Curtis**, because of his Indian heritage, 'Kemosabe' which means faithful friend.****Homeboy, free safety **Earl Thomas**, with the Seattle Seahawks, was named to start in the Pro Bowl. **Thomas**, a **West Orange-Stark** grad and **University of Texas** star, is the only **Seahawk** named. He is completing only his second year in the pros. This **Orange County** star is always quick to praise and give recognition to his hometown, **Orange, Texas**, the place that raised him.******Matt Bryant**, another **Orange Countian** and **Bridge City** native, is headed to the playoffs with the Atlanta Falcons. The place kicker has one of the best field goal averages in the pros. I'm surprised he wasn't invited to the **Pro Bowl**. Both of these young men make us proud.****Up and running is **West Orange** mayor **Roy McDonald** after having gall bladder surgery last Friday. He's not exactly running but he's home, healing well and will be running soon. You can book it. He's a nice guy and serves his town well.****Attendance was down last week at the **Wednesday Lunch Bunch**. The holidays found a lot of folks gone. Those in attendance at **Novrozsky's** were Judge **Janice Menard**, Judge **David Peck**, Constable **Chris Humble**, city administrator at Pinehurst Judge **Joe Parkhurst**, Sheriff **Keith Merritt** and **Marlene, King Dunn**, postmaster retired, **Roy Dunn**, no kin, Judge **Claude Wimberly** and Chief **Jerry Wimberly** and also breaking bread with the **Bunch** was **Mandy Rogers**, assistant district attorney. **Judge Derry Dunn**, **King's** son, was in Georgia visiting his daughter. This week the **Bunch** will dine at **Robert's** and attendance should pick up. Everyone is welcome.******Elly May Clampett**, actress **Donna Douglas**, has settled a lawsuit with Mattel Toy makers and CBS over a Barbie doll that uses the characters name and likeness. You might remember **Elly May** back in the 1960's and 70's. She was a shapely tomboy who loved critters. The **Clampetts** moved to Beverly Hills after striking oil in Arkansas. It was a favorite weekly show of mine. The writer had a great imagination.

20 Years Ago-2001

Boy hasn't the last 20 years flown by. The lid has shut on a year that will be remembered throughout the ages. Kids old enough will remember where they were on 9-11, 2001. Terrorist, led by **Bin Laden**, commandeered four commercial airplanes and brought havoc on our country. They also awakened the pride, patriotism and strength of America. (Editor's note: **Bin Laden** was killed in 2011 on orders given by **President Barack Obama**. Most of the leaders of the terrorist group have since been killed.)******Kim and Jason Mathews** have a new baby girl, **Baylee Noel**, born Dec. 15. She shares a birthday with her beautiful grandmother **Debbie Judice Roy**. **Jason** is with the Tennessee Titans football team. (Editor's note: **Baylee** is 20 years old today. **Jason** has retired and I'm not sure where he and **Kim** are living and what he's doing.)******Brian "Red" LaSalle**, 44, was found dead at his home Dec. 24 by his brother, **Burl**. Services were held Dec. 26 in Woodville.******Roy and Ms. Phyl** will celebrate their 47th wedding anniversary Dec. 31. ******Sue Bearden, C.J. Huckaby** and **Owen Burton** are running for County Commissioner, Pct. 2. ****The Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2 race is crowded with **Roy Derry Dunn, Ralph D. Cooper** and **Ed Barton**. **Cimmeron Campbell** is a Republican incumbent J.P.******Judge Carl Thibodeaux** is challenged by former judge **Pete Runnels**. ****Former Dallas Cowboy **Harvey Martin** died at age 51. ****Coach **Bud Tomlin**, 89, coach at **Thomas Jefferson** and **Bishop Byrne**, also died. ****Celebrities who died in 2001 were **Jack Lemmon, Carroll O'Conner, Anthony Quinn, John Lee Hooker, Foster Brooks, Troy Donahue, Imogene Coca, Dale Evans, George Harrison, Chet Atkins, Les Brown, Perry Como, Johnny Russell, Morton Downey, Jr. and Cajun, Justin Wilson**, just to mention a few. ****Orange County Commissioner **John Dubose** proposes courthouse security solutions that will cut cost from \$350,000 to \$100,000. He developed the plan after meeting with the district judges, **Sheriff White** and **County Judge Thibodeaux**. ****Attorney **Alan Sanders** is appointed chairman of the "POST" Partnership of Southeast Texas. ****Orange city council seeks new city manager. **Manager Chuck Pinto** leaves Jan. 16, **Police Chief Sam Kittrell** will serve as interim manager over the next few months.

45 Years Ago-1977

Cecil Wingate, member of a large pioneer family and father of 18 children, died Saturday, Dec. 30. ******Richard Corder** celebrates a birthday Jan. 4. ******Barbara Gillis** returns to her old job as court reporter in the county court at law. The past four years she has been a court reporter in Jefferson County. (Editor's note: About 30 years ago, **Barbara** went to Las Vegas and never came back.)******Phyllis and Roy Dunn** celebrated their 22nd anniversary with a big New Year's Eve party at their home. **Ann Lieby**, who attended with **Tim**, said the guest attending was a list of "Who's Who" in **Orange County**. Also attending was **Sen. Carl Parker** and friends from Jefferson County. ******Barbara Mandrell** and the **Do-Rites** will play for a dance at the **VFW Hall** on Jan. 11. (Editor's note: That was before she was a star. She later came back to the **Lutcher Theater** as a star.)

50 Years Ago-1971

On Dec. 22, 1971, **Joseph 'Pete' Runnels** announced he would be a candidate for **Orange County Democratic Chairman** in the May 6, 1972 primary. He will be facing incumbent **James 'Jim' Morris**. **Runnels**, age 28, is a graduate of **Sam Houston State University**. He and wife **Carol** have two sons. He is a member of the **Orange Jaycees** and **Sports Editor** of the **Opportunity Valley News**. In a statement **Runnels** said, "I have no quarrel with the present Democratic Chairman. I offer myself so that the young voters will feel they have a voice in the democratic process." (Editor's note: **Pete** beat **Morris**, former district at-

torney, and that started **Pete's** long political career.******Sak-N-Pak Convenience Store** has four locations, 37th St. and McArthur Circle, in Orange and 1510 Texas Ave. and 335 Roundbunch, in Bridge City. **Old Milwaukee** beer sells for 6 pk., 99 cents; **Borden** milk, 79 cents gal; panty hose, 79 cents; **Union 76** self-serve gasoline, 25 cents to 29 cents gallon.******Burger Chef**, 3009 McArthur, Orange, cheese burger and french fries, 39 cents.******The Whang Doodle**, 3020 McArthur, sandwiches, super **Whang-Doodle** with fries, 69 cents; Chili Dog Platter, with fries and malt, 75 cents; Hot Dog, with homemade chili, 29 cents, 5 for \$1.******Brown Hearing Aid Center** has two locations, 709 Mariposa, Beaumont and 805 Main, Orange. **Lee Brown** is owner and audiologist. Free hearing aid consultations.******Roy Dunn's** three liquor stores, **The Midway**, Texas Ave., Bridge City, operated by **Phyllis Dunn; Suds**, run by **Mr. Ed Ichler**, Hwy. 87, Little Cypress; **Warehouse**, 817, 2nd. Street, Orange, operated by **Roy**. **The Dunn's** also published **The Opportunity News**. (Editor's note: They later sold the stores and went full time into newspaper publishing. They published the **Consumer Beacon**, in Beaumont, **The Community Post**, in Port Arthur and Mid-County and owned **Triangle Press**, in Beaumont, which printed other publications and sale papers. Interesting note: **Dunn** bought **Suds** from **Robert Sims**, who built it and sold it to **Ed Bacon**, two colorful guys.)

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Thanks to Texas State Senator **Robert Nichols** and wife **Donna** for the nice gift of the State of Texas Christmas Tree Ornament and card.****I heard from **County Judge John Gothia**. It's always good to hear from him. Our Commissioners Court is doing a great job. They show some concern that not enough of our citizens are vaccinated. They worry we could face some real problems very soon. **Omicron** spreads very fast. Overnight we could fill hospitals. **Get your booster shot.******A few folks we know who will be celebrating in the next few days. **Dec. 22:** Our longtime friends **Dr. Mark Messer** and wife **Becky** celebrate their wedding anniversary today. Congrats and best wishes for many more. Celebrating birthdays are **Donny Robbins, Rodney Harmon, Yvonne Veillon, Debi Foster** and **Charlie Lemons**.******Dec. 23:** Happy 55th anniversary to **Judge Buddie Hahn** and **Carrol**. May you be blessed with many more healthy years. Celebrating birthdays are **Dayle and Buzzie's** little boy, **Chris Gunn**, who is a year older today. Also celebrating are **Sue Cowling** and **Jane Holton**.******Dec. 24:** Happy Birthday to **Helen DeRoche**. Despite being in her 90's, she and **Al** keep on keeping on. Other birthdays on **Christmas Eve** are **Sydni Bouhler, Amie LeBeouf, Billy Moore, Terri Estes, Trey Clark**.******Dec. 25:** Merry Christmas. Happy Birthday to **Judge Flo Edgerly, Janelle Deutseh, Ronnie Hutchison** and **Randy Wuske**.******Dec. 26:** On this day in 1922, **Harry Choate**, the Godfather of Cajun Music, was born. Also born on this day were **Ashley Burris, Jennifer Ferguson** and **Kent Broussard**.******Dec. 27:** Our longtime friend, pretty **Irene Stevens** turns 94. We wish this good lady continued good health. A bunch of great folks celebrate today. My buddy **Sharon Bearden** turns 83. We were so young all those years ago. Where have the last 50 years gone. **Commissioner Kirk Roccaforte** celebrates today also. **Kirk** just doesn't seem to age. Better not if he's going to keep up with **Christy**. **Bobby Fillyaw** celebrates today along with **Coach Russell Bottley**.******Dec. 28:** My good buddy, everyone's friend, **Karen Jo Vance**, celebrates today. Also celebrating is **Earl's** mom, **Debbie Thomas** and **Harriet Dubose, Stacy Roberts, Lynda Montagne** and **Linn Cardner**.******Dec. 29:** Longtime friend **Kenny 'Kee-kee' Dupuis** was just a teenager at his dad's service station when I first met him. The years have flown by. We wish him a very happy birthday. Also celebrating are **Jacklyn Bradberry, Sherrie Reid, and Pam White**. **Happy Birthday to all**.**** **Commissioner Robert Viator** is Grandpa twice as of last week. A new granddaughter made her appearance on Thursday. Mom and baby doing well.****Speaking of babies, **Judge Joy Dubose-Simonton** is waiting for her new grand baby to arrive. Son **Christian** and wife **Jess** are expecting a baby girl before the New Year.****Congrats to **Hannah Wiegrefe**, Bridge City native, who just got word she was accepted into Physical Therapy school. She graduates from **McNeese** in the Spring and then will attend the program at **Texas Women's** in the fall.****Word on the street is **Robert's Steakhouse** is in a rebuild stage and hopes to reopen by Easter.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

When **Agness Comeaux**, a blond Cajun girl, boarded a small two-seater Cessna airplane at da Esterwood grass airstrip. After taking off and approaching Lafayette, da pilot him, dies. **Agness** her, not knowing how to fly a plane grab da radio and say, "Mayday, Mayday, dis is **Agness** from **Rayne**, my pilot **Sostan Thibodeaux** done died him, help, help."

Da air controllet answers back, "Don't worry madam, me, I'll talk you down. Jus do as I say."

Agness answer, "Okay."

Da controller say, "First I need for you to give me your height and position."

Very nervous, **Agness** answer, "Me, I'm five foot two and I'm sitting in da right front seat."

Ground control came back and say, "Lordy, Ms. **Agness**, repeat after me, Our Father which art in Heaven--"

C'EST TOUT

PAXTON'S \$2.2 MILLION FRAUD CON GAME Three cases filed

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has been one of former **President Donald Trump's** most reliable allies in spreading the myth of widespread voter fraud, particularly in the 2020 election, and frequently boasts that few states are as vigilant. His office's election integrity unit added two lawyers to the team in the last year, bringing it up to six staffers total, and worked more than 20,000 hours between October 2020 and September 2021. Its budget, meanwhile, ratcheted up from \$1.9 million to \$2.2 million during that time. Yet records from the office show that the unit closed just three cases this year, down from 17 last year, and opened seven new ones. That includes the newly created unit focused on the 2021 local elections, which has yet to file a single case. "This is an exorbitant amount of money that has resulted in no benefit for the average Texan." The bottom line, **you can't stop frauds** when there isn't any. Fraud is a bi-word to create new voting regulations to limit minority voting. We need a **National Voting Rights Bill**.****Wishing you and yours a very **Merry Christmas**. Please shop our family of advertisers and read us cover to cover. **Take care and God bless.**

Mary Magdalene Church background last a lifetime



Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Abbeville, Louisiana.

DOWN LIFE'S HIGHWAY ROY DUNN For The Record

I don't have very many good memories of Christmas in my childhood. We were extremely poor, in my very early years, so I don't recall that I ever received a store-bought gift. Sometimes I got a handmade toy but mostly a useful item like a pair of socks, maybe a new shirt



Roy Dunn

or pair of church pants. Never in my early years did my family have a Christmas tree. When I was about in the eighth grade, the teacher gave me the classroom tree when school let out for the holidays and that was the only tree we ever had. I recall today how proud we were of that tree. We colored some paper, cut it in strips and with flour paste made a chain that we strung around the tree.

Those Christmas mornings, with no gifts, I believe were harder on my mother than it was on me. I had never had anything so I didn't seem to know the difference until I got a little older. My friends, cousins and so forth all had dads around and even though none of them were well to do, they fared better than I did. My single mom and I had seen many hungry days; they always had a little something to eat.

Despite all of that, I still have a warm feeling and fond memories of my religious upbringing. Most of the Cajun people in the Abbeville village were Catholics. My boyhood Christmases were highlighted with the attendance of Midnight Mass at the old Mary Magdalene Church. The historic church sits on a knoll in downtown, on the banks of the Vermillion River. It really was the Christian foundation of the township and the sur-

rounding areas. The town and church, established by a young priest, Father Antoine Megret, in 1843, purchased the land and laid the town out like his hometown in Abbeville, France, with two downtown squares. The city was incorporated March 13, 1850.

On Christmas Eve, about 9 p.m., my grandmother and I would set out to make it in time for Midnight Mass a few miles away. We walked there and back, arriving back home near 3 a.m. We never, in my entire childhood, ever owned a car. I got an Army surplus bike when I was a teenager and owned the first car our family ever had when, at the age of 16, I purchased a 1932 V-8 Ford for \$90, from my friend Harry Waddell. Harry and I were roommates in Ms. Shugart's Boarding House in Port Arthur at the time. The Ford was a coupe so when I first got home with the car I would take my Grandmother and Mom riding, one at a time.

We had an exceptional faith instilled in us by my grandmother Availa. Even when she was getting up in age, she still made those long, midnight walks to the special Christmas service. Every Sunday morning of the year, summer and winter, we made the trek to morning mass. Other times, during Holy Week we went evenings to attend the "Way of the Cross." I believe today it's referred to as "Stations of the Cross." The service of how Christ died was always touching.

My Christmas memories of Midnight Mass were especially moving. The beautiful service was said in Latin and the Gospel would be spoken in both French and English. The large choir sang beautiful Catholic Christmas hymns. The service was that of the old traditional Catholic faith. Later as I grew up, times got better. We still didn't have Christmas as such but we had more to eat and Christmas Day was filled with relatives coming by to visit Grandma. The cousins got to play games and see each other, which was rare.

Deaths & Memorials

Nancy Louise Prouse, 71, Bridge City

Nancy Louise Prouse, age 71 of Bridge City, Texas passed away on December 16th, 2021 in Houston, Texas.

A memorial service to honor her life and memory will be held at 3:00 on Monday, December 20th at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange, Texas. Visitation will begin at 1:30 at Claybar Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Orange Forest Lawn Cemetery.

Nancy was born in Carrollton, Missouri to parents Jim Franken and Gerry Stewart-Bonnin. She was a ray of sunshine and always had a smile on her face and will be



Nancy Prouse

missed by many.

She was preceded in death by her father Jim, mother Gerry, her father-in-law and mother-in-law Paul and Enola Prouse, sister Darlene Lambert and brother Bobby Franken.

Nancy is survived by her loving and devoted husband, Charles Prouse, her children Chuck Prouse and wife Stacy, and Angie Ramos and husband Derek, her grandchildren Cody Prouse, Katy Schraer and her husband Trevor, and her great grandchild Jaxon as well as her siblings Jimmy Franken, Diana Whitehead, Susan Haley, Chris Callahan and Kandis Dallas.

Recalling my past Christmases makes me especially thankful for the good fortune I've had and for Phyl and I being able to provide hopefully, some good Christmas memories for our children.

Maybe I did have the best of it. The material things would be gone but the Christmas times I spent at that old church have kept me grounded and those times gave me an appreciation for all the good things that come my way, no matter how small; it means a lot. Friendships and loyalties far outweigh gifts. Good health and the well being of my family are the things that make everyday special.

Despite my early beginning, life has been very good to me. I wouldn't trade it. At this time of year however, I miss family. Over the years we had large family gatherings, at Christmas time, now our parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles are all gone. So many friends we spent this season with are also gone. It's hard to comprehend that the poor little boy, in the small Cajun town, is now the senior monarch of the large family that came

along.

This Christmas Day we are truly blessed. Phyl and I, now well in our 80's, are indeed fortunate to still be around and for our family, having us around is something to be thankful for also. This year we won't have the big gathering of years past, we had it at Thanksgiving with 16 of our 17 offspring spending a week. What a great gathering.

At Christmas time I think about the Christ child and His beginning, "Mary brought forth her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7 "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11.

The whole theme of Christmas is the sharing, kindness, and God's love for us and the love we have for each other. From Phyl and I and our family, we extend our love and best wishes to you and yours and we thank you for your kindness throughout the many years we've shared.

Merry Christmas

During this holiday season, we wish you all the best.

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Orange County Church Directory

Don't You Love The Shepherds

Thoughts On The Meaning Of Christmas



Pastor Charles Empey

Pastor Charles Empey
Columnist

Luke 2:8 "And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night."

Who are your favorite characters in the account of the birth of Jesus? The shepherds or the three Wise Men, referred to often as Kings? I'm going to say hands down most of us chose the shepherds.

Why is that? For me, it is because they represented a part of the more common of society, even the poorer part of society. Jesus said that it is very difficult for a rich man to enter the Kingdom of God. What He meant was that their preoccupation with their wealth, sustaining it and making more distracts them from the spiritual activities of God all around them. So, their priorities are focused upon the security of their substance, not their souls.

They even at times have a fear that if they got too caught up in Christianity that they might be called upon to share their substance with the Lord and His church. By the way, I'm not necessarily talking about millionaires or billionaires. If you have monetary gain, giving you liberty to own a really nice house, wardrobe, recreation toys, nice cars, or trucks, etc. etc., clearly that is enough distraction from what is important in Christ. Churches are emptying out today not because million-



aires have quit going to church, but people who are just as I have described have left serving the church of Jesus Christ to indulge in their wealth.

The "shepherds," the least of the society chain monetarily are left to try to keep the ministry of Christ's churches going. They love Jesus, and His church, and the souls of men more than having a lucrative lifestyle. "Shepherds," lower occupations, are not distracted by the glitter of the world and are open to the Lord, even the appearance of His angels in the night. Vrs. 9-10 "And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. 10 And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

Worldly distractions are one reason people live their life and miss Christ. Their focus is on this world, not heaven and the Savior of heaven. God is operating all around us, but too many are not paying attention and wonder why they have not the contentment and peace that a good bank account and lifestyle they think should give. They are either lost without the Spirit to guide and awaken them, or they are simply distracted

from the godly importance always around them.

Allow me to say that this does not mean that there are not those still faithful to God's churches who are well off, but the "well off" factor is small in number. It has always been the less in income and society who were the hardest working and most faithful in the churches. Read the Scriptures.

The first church was made up of poor fishermen, converted and saved prostitutes, the lesser in society. Luke was a physician to illustrate that there was from time to time an upper crust in the church. Remember Ananias and Sapphire in Acts chapter 5? They had a lot of land and possessions and had seen others surrendering their gains to the church and wanted to appear to have done the same. They just couldn't give it up for the Lord, because they came to the church and lied to Peter as to how much they had really given. The "shepherds" of the the Lord's church

didn't have so much to be attached. They were used to sacrifice and living meagerly, and if need be, for the cause of Christ, His church.

Verse 11 says, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." Isn't it interesting that it says, "For unto you is born this day..."? Do you see that the Angel was telling them that Jesus "is born unto you?" "Unto you..." Jesus is a personal Savior, not a "world" Savior. Salvation is a very personal experience between Christ and the one who comes to Him to be their Savior. The shepherds were attentive to that announcement. Wow! My Savior. My Messiah. The went unto Jesus to meet Him and to receive Him. They walked away from their living, their watching over their flocks, leaving their jobs at risk to meet and receive their Savior.

Suddenly Jesus was more important than job security and house security. What has happened to that today

and over the past few decades? We have fewer "shepherds" and more materially secure people. Abundance has taken priority over going to Jesus and receiving Him. Christmas is more about gifts and all the flair than about Christ Jesus and His church. The Jesus, who they are willing to say is the reason for the season, and the church is deserted and the Christmas tree is attended with expensive decor and gifts in such number that overwhelm the tree. Christianity has been traded for a season of decorated trees and loads of gifts. Children are missing God and His Son, therefore heaven, but it is seen to that they have the gifts of their present dreams.

The shepherds came from meeting and receiving their Savior rejoicing and telling everyone about Him. That was their priority. They had nothing of gift or riches to give their Savior, but they had His salvation. To them that was the most valuable thing and possession above all this world is willing to offer in hard earned riches. Nothing else counted but their Savior and eventually His church. They understood what was eternally valuable, while knowing that all else will go away someday leaving the only thing they have ever and will ever ultimately need, the Savior, Jesus.

Then for a quick final note...2 years later the three wise men, very wealthy men

and men of power and authority came looking for the new born Savior and King. They were not so distracted by their worldly wealth and power...their worldly comforts. They were willing to walk away from it, bringing evidence of their riches by their expensive gifts given to Him. How does this come along side what I have already written? It tells us that God is showing us in His Word, among other things, that the giving of His Son Jesus was sufficient to reach the poorest to the richest, if they are truly awakened to such need of the Savior. Humbling the upper crust of society is harder than humbling those already humbled in their way of life.

Yet, we see in the account of the three Wise Men that Jesus came to save sinners out of every level of society, if they will humble themselves to hear and see Him right now available to save their souls and sustain them spiritually and materially.

There is nothing wrong with riches in and of themselves, but if it has drawn you away from Christ and His church, and has only boiled down to a once a year holiday called Christmas and a tree and gifts...well, what more can I say? Except, in this Christmas season will you just stop and think about this message?

Charles Empey is the Pastor of Cove Baptist Church, Orange, TX.

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A New Rod For Gramps

ROBERT VAIL
The Fisherman's Fisherman
For The Record

Young Cris had been going fishing since he was old enough to walk. Gramps, as he had called him, was raising Chris as best he could, living on a fixed income.

Cris' parents were taken from him in a car crash when he was only six months old, and his Gramps was just like a dad to him. Gramps had lost his wife to cancer a year before Cris was born, so the two of them needed each other very much.

Living within a mile of one of Texas' largest bays, Cris enjoyed the time he and his grandfather spent on its shores. Gramps had spent many hours schooling him in the finer art of angling for redfish and he always admired the pretty copper-colored battlers that his gramps caught and later cooked for dinner.

Cris fished with push-button reel on a rod that was tattered and missing an eye or two. Limited as to what he could catch on his smaller outfit, he was just as happy catching croakers for Gramps to use for cut bait to lure the redfish they ate.

Gramps fished with an old knuckle-busting reel that had no drag and direct drive mounted on an old six-foot rod that was a little stiffer than he would like, but it was all he had, and he couldn't afford a newer model, so he made do.

In the spring of Cris' eighth year, he accompanied Gramps to a local pawn shop where Gramps was going to try to sell his old shot gun to help pay for some of his medical bills. Gramps reasoned that since he was too old to tromp the salt marsh after ducks any more, he might as well

use the gun for something good.

While in the pawn shop, Cris noticed his grandfather wander over the rack of fishing rods in the corner and pick up a shiny seven-foot rod with a new, bright red Garcia reel on it.



Gramps held the rod admiringly, sighting down the length of it. He tested it for balance and made several casts before setting it back in its place.

Cris knew then what he wanted to give his Gramps for next Christmas.

All summer long Cris did as many odd jobs as he could, saving every penny he earned mowing grass and washing cars. In between fishing trips with his Grandfather, he carried out the neighbor's garbage, and as summer turned into fall, he raked leaves all over the neighborhood.

Finally two days before Christmas, he had enough money saved. Cris hopped on his bicycle and pedaled down to the pawn shop ... only to find that the rod and reel that his Gramps had so admired had been sold only hours before.

Disappointed and with his gaze fixed on the ground, Cris slowly rode his bicycle back home. He knew he did not have enough money to buy Gramps a brand new rod and reel. He needed time to try and figure out what to do, and he knew no better way to think things over than go fishing.

Grabbing his push button reel and rod, he quietly slipped out the back door as Gramps napped in his chair. He figured he would be back before Gramps even knew he was gone.

When he arrived at the edge of the bay, he noticed that the tide was unusually high and the bay as calm as glass. Only the occasional swirl of a passing mullet dimpled the surface.

A NEW ROD FOR GRAMPS Page 4B

Kaz's Fearless Football Forecast . . .

BOWL GAMES THIS WEEK. PRO FOOTBALL PICKS.

• **Armed Forces Bowl**—7 p.m. Today at Fort Worth, TX. (ESPN)—Army over Missouri.

• **Liberty Bowl**—5:45 p.m. Tuesday at Memphis, TN. (ESPN)—Mississippi State over Texas Tech.

* **Holiday Bowl**—7 p.m. Tuesday at San Diego, CA. (Fox)—North Carolina State over UCLA.

• **Guaranteed Rate Bowl**—9:15 p.m. Tuesday at

Phoenix, AZ. (ESPN)—Minnesota over West Virginia.

PRO PICKS—San Francisco over Tennessee (Thursday Night); Green Bay over Cleveland, Indianapolis over Arizona (Both Saturday); LA Chargers over Houston, Baltimore over Cincinnati, New England over Buffalo, De-

troit over Atlanta, NY Jets over Jacksonville, LA Rams over Minnesota, Philadelphia over NY Giants, Tampa Bay over Carolina, Seattle over Chicago, Denver over Las Vegas, Kansas City over Pittsburgh, Dallas over Washington (all Sunday); New Orleans over Miami (Monday Night).

• **Frisco Football Classic**—2:30 p.m. Thursday at Frisco, TX. (ESPN)—North Texas over Miami, O.

• **Gasparilla Bowl**—6 p.m. Thursday at Tampa, Fla. (ESPN)—Florida over Central Florida.

• **Hawaii Bowl**—7 p.m. Friday at Honolulu, HI. (ESPN)—Memphis over Hawaii.

• **Camellia Bowl**—1:30 p.m. Saturday at Montgomery, Ala. (ESPN)—Georgia State over Ball State.

• **Quick Lane Bowl**—10 a.m. Monday at Detroit, MI. (ESPN)—Western Michigan over Nevada.

• **Military Bowl**—2:30 p.m. Monday at Annapolis, Md. (ESPN)—Boston College over East Carolina.

• **Birmingham Bowl**—11 a.m. Tuesday at Birmingham, Ala. (ESPN)—Houston over Auburn (Upset Special).

• **First Responder Bowl**—2:15 p.m. Tuesday at Dallas, TX. (ESPN)—Air Force over Louisville.

Daughters of the American Revolution meetings

The Daughters of the American Revolution William Diamond Chapter of Orange County meets the third Tuesday of the month at St. Paul Methodist Church in Bridge City at 1:00 p.m. To become a member, a woman must be 18 years or older who can prove lineal, blood-line descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American Independence. She must provide documentation, as well as the Revolutionary War service of her Patriot ancestor.

DAR promotes Patriotism, Historical Preservation, Educational, Veterans and Women's issues. For additional information contact Bertie Herman, Regent, at 409-735-5253 or 409-960-4560



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ORANGE COUNTY

Kaz Shares Santa's Gift List

KAZ'S KORNER
JOE KAZMAR
For The Record



Joe Kazmar

Saturday was one of the biggest days of our granddaughter Jennifer Whitehead's life—she was the only female graduating from Lamar University with a degree in chemical engineering.

And she received it with magna cum laude honors, after making nearly all straight A's during the four years in college and all straight A's during her four years at Barbers Hill High School.

The whole clan was at the Montagne Center in Beaumont for that 10 a.m. ceremony and then went to Bruno's Steak House to eat, compliments of her parents Brian and Cathy Whitehead.

We spent more than three hours eating, drinking, taking pictures and just visiting. Right after we got there, a heavy-set senior citizen had just finished brunch and was waddling toward the exit. As he was opening the door to go out in the pouring rain, something dropped out of his pocket.

I saw it drop, but by the time I made it to the door, he was gone and I wasn't going out in the deluge to look for him. I peeked at the list which revealed the following gifts:

RECENTLY FIRED JACKSONVILLE HEAD COACH URBAN MEYER—A book "The Difference Between Coaching College Football and in the NFL." Santa should have given him that book last Christmas.

RECENTLY RETIRED WEST ORANGE-STARK FOOTBALL COACH CORNEL THOMPSON—After being involved with teams of Mustangs since 1977, he now will be in charge of his herd of cattle full-time.

DALLAS COWBOYS—The Return of an Old Friend Award. Although the offense is still not hitting on all cylinders, the defense appears to be headed back to Doomsday status with its league-leading number of sacks and interceptions.

OCCASIONAL BRIDGE PARTNER SUSAN PENNINGTON—A Hickory Ruler to slap me on the knuckles every time I make a bone-headed mistake at the bridge table.

ARIZONA CARDINALS—Bottoms Up Award—After a record-setting seven straight

victories on the road, they get tripped up at Detroit by the bottom-feeding Lions, who won only their third game of the season.

JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS—The Head Coach Replacement Situation—The leading candidate for this honor could very well go to Tampa Bay offensive coordinator Byron Leftwich, but the zero his team put on the scoreboard Sunday against New Orleans won't help much.

TRINITY BAPTIST INTERIM PASTOR LYNN ASHCRAFT—The Octogenarian Award for still being great at preaching as well as on the golf course, despite what his birth certificate reads.

BALTIMORE RAVENS HEAD COACH JOHN HARBAUGH—A Playbook with a successful two-point conversion. He's tried to win games twice this month at the end of the game, but failed to convert on both occasions, losing by one point both times.

The Persistence Award for finally getting a duplicate bridge group together after playing only party bridge for the last three years at his San Antonio retirement village.

PITTSBURGH STEELERS LINEBACKER T.J. WATT—A Crown for being the king of the sacks for a single season. And his 17½ sacks was done with still three games to play. He broke the record of 16 set by James Harrison, also a Steelers' linebacker, who recorded 16 in 2008. He also bested his big brother J.J., who probably taught him every technique in the books.

SUNSET GROVE GOLFER CRAIG COUVILLION—A Huge Hourglass to count down the time before he joins us retirees.

JACKSONVILLE'S ROOKIE STARTING QUARTERBACK TREVOR LAWRENCE—The Great/Lousy Award for playing on an undefeated national championship team at Clemson and then playing for the worst team in the NFL that is on course to repeat as earning the No.1 pick in the 2022 draft.

HOUSTON TEXANS—The Lousy/Good Award for being a bad team that has defeated Jacksonville eight straight times.

TAMPA BAY QUARTERBACK TOM BRADY—The song that begins "It's all over" pertaining to his 225-game streak of never quarterbacking an NFL team that got shut

out until Sunday night when the not-so-great New Orleans Saints blanked the Buccaneers 9-0, in Tampa Bay, no less.

ORANGE/BEAUMONT BRIDGE DIRECTOR ED RASMUSSEN—A Blue Ribbon inscribed with the phrase "You're The Best!"

INDIANAPOLIS COLTS JOHNATHAN TAYLOR AND DALLAS COWBOYS MICAH PARSON—The Glutton Award because they're both a lock for the NFL Rookie of the Year for offense and defense, respectively, but also in the running for NFL Player of the Year in both categories.

GREEN BAY HEAD COACH MATT LAFLEUR—The Surprise Award—No coach has won more in his first 45 games in NFL history, including great Packers' coach Vince Lombardi.

SUNSET GROVE GOLFER KENNY RUANE—A can of Slimfast to portray he's trimmed his daily golfing schedule to two or three days a week now that he's 80.

HOUSTON TEXANS KICK RETURNER TREMON SMITH—The Water Bug Award to signify the way he moved en route to his 97-yard punt return at Jacksonville against the Jaguars Sunday. It was the first punt returned for a touchdown by a Texan since 2009.

NEW YORK GIANTS—The Rockettes Award for getting 40 per cent of their season's scoring totals by kicking field goals and extra points to prove they're not the only high kickers in the Big Apple.

AND A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO Janelle Sehon, Victor Romero, Archie

McClelland, Jeff Thomas, Johnny Montagne, Jason Bell, Tom Watson, Mark Frey, Ronnie Hutchison, Julie Mouton, Pierre De la Fosse, Chris Trout, Gwen Whitehead, Troy Manuel, Missy Pillsbury, Susan Pennington, Brad Prejean, John Morris, Larry Moerbe, Judy Arnaud, Tom Toal, Steve Betz, Jerry Windham, Bill Van, Gail Beckett, Larry Ancelot, Bobby Nelson, Carl Sanders, Matt Purgahn, David Thompson, James Denmon, Mike King, Durwood Bennett, Bob Cockerill, Chris Allen, Matt Morgan, Sid Caillavet, Doug Patterson, Mike Shuff, Jim King, Tiki Russell, Alex Morrow, John Cochran, David Benoit, Bart Corder, Jimmy Sichko, Ken Ruane, Joe Murphy, David Ess, John Dubose, Lacy Hale, Derry Dunn, Mark Williams, Gary Cook, Bobby Eddings, Tommy Gunn, Mac Guillory, Buddy Hahn, Glynn Aldredge, Jim Rodda, Pat Bell, Kerry Lamb, Brian Hudson, Mike Poutra.

Joe Ely, Trez Sichko, Ella Mulhollan, Allen Beauchamp, Harley Bennett, John Patterson, Wanda Peveto, Larry Duhon, David Sand, Milton Newton, Mike Parish, Robert Baca, Jim Brown, Ruth Hancock, Mark Hebert, John Toomey, Stacy Hoffpauir, Tina Lawrence, Richard Duffee, Tammy Torrez, Mike Shahan, Wes Duvall, James Vidrine, Ken St. John, David Bridges, Jim Matthews, Tommy Reed, Alan McDade, Sandra Hall, Wayne Brint, Jajemi Plut, V.L. Grimes, David Loden, Brian Waguespack, Ryan Chandler, Manuel Godina, Joseph Drodody, Wayne Baker, James Thurman, Bill Belcher, Shanna McCallon, Don Olivier, Jerry Ling, Brenda Buxton, Regina Edwards, Frank Hatton, Willow Simpson, Kathy Gunn, Dean Crooks, Wade Gillet, Jerry McDonald, Jerry Pennington, Chrisleigh Dal Sasso, Cathy Day.

Lindsey Nelson, Jim Sharon Bearden, Dean Domec, Mildred Frank, Dan Perrine, Billy Burrow, Dan Cochran, Ken Bridgers, George Crawford, Michelle Broussard, Jim Simon, Jack McClelland, J.R. Edmondson, Scottie Wilson, Willie Bednar, James Lopez, Bobby Duhon, Carlos Vacek, George Toal, Mike Lu-

KAZ'S CHRISTMAS LIST Page 5B



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'Twas the fight before Christmas



Billy Miske embodies the term 'fighter' and his story is one most inspiring, it begins with illusions of grandeur with a lot accomplished in between but ultimately expires prematurely in heartbreaking circumstances.

Rick Reilly
Sports Illustrated Archive

You can take all your Tiny Tims and your Grinches and your

Miracles on Whatever Street and stuff them in your stocking. The best Christmas story is about a boxer.

It starts the day in 1918 when a doctor tells a slender heavyweight named Billy Miske that his bum kidneys give him five years to live, if he's lucky. Turns out he's dying of Bright's disease. This comes as rotten news to Billy, who's only 24 years old and not half bad in the ring. He's good enough to fight guys like future light heavyweight champ Harry Greb twice to 10-round draws, which is sort of like tying with a twister. Still, the doc says if Billy's smart, he'll find a comfortable couch and retire right now.

Problem is, almost nobody but Billy knows he's up to his ears in debt, being \$100,000 in the hole because the car distributorship he operates in St. Paul doesn't distribute near enough cars.

Billy's weakness as a salesman is that he's too trusting. He keeps counting on his friends to pay up, and mostly they don't.

So Billy keeps the kidney news to himself and decides to continue fighting and paying what he owes. In fact,

Billy fights 30 more times after the doc's death sentence, including bust-ups with guys like Tommy Gibbons, who was knocked out only one time in his career, and three dances with Jack Dempsey, once for the title in 1920.

Dempsey hits people only slightly harder than a bus, and in that title bout he belts Billy once so flush in the heart that Billy goes down for a nine count. In those nine seconds a purple welt

the size of a baseball pops up on Billy's chest, scaring Dempsey half to death. But then Billy himself pops up, wanting more.

Dempsey knocks him clean out less than a minute later, this time with an anvil to the jaw, as Dempsey is trying to get the fight over before one of them faints, maybe Dempsey. "I was afraid I'd killed him," Dempsey says afterward, but Billy's kidneys are doing a good job of that all by themselves.

By the fall of 1923, Billy is dying fast. He looks like a broomstick on a diet. He's too weak to work out, much less prizefight. The only thing thinner than Billy's arms is his wallet. He hasn't had a bout since January, which is trouble, because Christmas is coming up hard.

Well, Billy isn't about to face his wife, Marie, and their three young kids, Billy Jr., Douglas and Donna, tapped out for his last Christmas, so he goes to his long-time manager, Jack Reddy, and asks him for one last fight. Reddy says no chance. "I don't like to say this," Reddy tells him, "but if you went in the ring now, in your condition, you might get killed."

"What's the difference?" Billy answers. "It's better than waiting for it in a rocking chair."

Reddy chews on that for a while and comes up with a proposition:

"Do one thing for me. Go to the gym, start working out, and let's see if you can get into some kind of condition. Then we'll talk."

Billy says no can do. He says there's no way he can work out. He says he's got one last fight in him, and maybe not even that. A softie, Reddy arranges a Nov. 7 bout in Omaha against a brawler named Bill Brennan, who went 12 rounds with Dempsey and is still meaner than 10 miles in brand-new shoes.

True to his word, Billy doesn't get any nearer the gym than his aspirin bottle. He stays in hiding, slurping bowls of chicken soup and boiled fish, and rarely making it out of bed. But he turns up in Omaha on the appointed night, survives four rounds with Brennan and cashes a check for \$2,400.

That check buys the best Christmas the Miskes ever have. The kids come flying downstairs in the morning to a Christmas tree, a toy train, a baby-grand piano and presents stacked higher than they can reach. They eat like Rockefeller and sing like angels and laugh all day. Do you know, the only smile bigger in

Minneapolis that day than the ones on the faces of those three Miske kids is on Billy's mug.

The next morning Billy calls Reddy and whispers, "Come and get me, Jack. I'm dying." Reddy rushes Billy to St. Mary's Hospital, but the doctors can't do a thing. On New Year's Day 1924, Billy, 29, dies of kidney failure.

That's it, really. Except that if you ever pass through Omaha and run into an old-timer, ask him about the prizefight that day, the one that gave Billy Miske the finish he wanted, the one he won in four rounds, over Bill Brennan, by a knockout.

Rick Reilly- Rick Reilly is

a member of the National Sportswriters and Sports-casters Hall of Fame and is an 11 time National Sports-writer of the Year and the

author of 11 books. He wrote for Sports Illustrated from 1985 to 2007, and for the last 10 of those years he authored the popular "Life of

Reilly" column on the magazine's backpage, the first signed weekly opinion column in the magazine's history.



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Re-think your approach to cold weather fishing

OUTDOORS Capt. Chuck Uzzle For The Record

In all the major bay systems along the Texas gulf coast die hard big trout hunters are licking their lips in anticipation of finding that one truly big speckled trout of a lifetime. The late fall and winter months are regarded as the best times to pursue real wall hanger size trout, and here on Sabine lake we are no different. In years past we have seen some amazing things come our way to change the way we as anglers looked at fishing. Some or most of these ideas are not for everybody, they involve more than your fair share of empty grueling hours in less than ideal conditions so beware and be prepared. I am not by any means trying to persuade anyone not to try this type of fishing; I am only being honest about what kind of effort it takes to reap rewards that were long thought impossible for our lake. I will promise you this though, if you try these tactics and experience even minor success you will understand how addictive this whole process can be.



Chuck Uzzle



Winter fishing always invites the heated debate between waders and drifters, which method is better and who catches more fish.

Fishing in the winter months, after the gulls seem to have left for vacation and the shrimp have all but disappeared, means you must do a couple of important things in order to be successful. Finding the warmest water in your area and finding baitfish such as mullet in that area is a great sign. According to Parks and Wildlife studies water temperatures in the 60 to 80 degree range are the best for catching speckled trout. During the winter months as the surface temps dip into the low 50's it is a must to slow your presentations and possibly offer up a little bigger bait. Tried and true late win-

ter and early spring producers like Corkies and Catch V's should be in every fisherman's tackle box as well as a few others that don't get quite as much recognition. In years past I have really become a fan of the stick baits or shallow divers like the Rapala X Rap or Yozuri Minnows and you should never leave the dock without a few topwater plugs such as the Mirrroure She Dog or Pup, Rapala skitterwalks, or the tried and true Super spooks.

Winter fishing always invites the heated debate between waders and drifters, which method is better and who catches more fish. Wading is one of those techniques where you either "love it or hate it", some fishermen cannot stand the work involved or the cold water temps while others thrive under these conditions. All I can tell you is to try it out and see for yourself, the results are often worth effort. Now don't get me wrong wading is not the "end all be all" technique that will guarantee you success, it will at certain times appear that

Watching anglers in a boat continue to try to get into an area where waders are catching fish and their boat won't go is often comical, you can just see the frustration every time a wader lands a fish. More often than not the boat usually leaves in disgust.

If wade fishing proves not to be something you are willing to pursue don't worry, you can drift over the scattered shell reefs on the lake and still have a good shot at

catching that big fish. The same baits that work for waders will also catch big fish from a boat provided you take a few things into consideration. Noise and boat control are tops on the list of factors that will determine success or failure. Careful anglers know that slamming hatches and dropping gear on the floor of a boat can spook fish and quickly turn a prime area into a virtual ghost town. Also setting

up on one of these areas takes careful planning and the right gear, a Power Pole or Stake Out Stick is a great way to position your boat in order to fish an area more thoroughly. Those people who think you can't catch big fish from a boat need to re-think that statement because with a little effort you can certainly score that fish of lifetime without having to get wet or wade.

As this calendar year

comes to a conclusion and we prepare to celebrate Christmas please remember the reason for the season and take a minute to reflect on your blessings and to share some of those with others when you get the chance. Enjoy the holidays, take a kid fishing, and be courteous when you are on the water. I hope each and every one of you have a joyous and Merry Christmas.

Wishing You A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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A new rod for gramps

From Page 1B

Cris had brought only one piece of cut mullet, because he didn't really think he would catch anything, but he enjoyed the peace and solitude. Mainly he wanted to try and figure out what to do about Gramps' Christmas gift.

Casting out his piece of bait, he held onto his rod but let his mind wander. Watching a lone seagull glide effortlessly overhead, he pondered what to do.

Suddenly he felt a sharp thump on his line. Then it slowly began to move to one side.

Reeling in the slack, he set the hook into what he instantly realized was a bigger fish than he had ever hooked. He pulled on his flimsily rod and reel as hard as he dared, and to his amazement, the fish began to swim toward him. Reeling for all he was worth, he had the huge fish wallowing in the shallows at his feet before he knew it. He reached down and gently slid his hand under the gillplate of the huge red, hefting it to better admire it.

When he lifted the fish, he noticed a shiny new hook in the opposite corner of its mouth. String was still attached to the hook and it dipped into the water. Laying the fish on the bank, he grabbed up the string and began pulling. He felt a resistance from something on the other end of the line.

Tugging harder he saw the tip of a rod break the mirror surface. Giving a final yank, he couldn't believe his eyes when a new rod and Garcia reel--just like the one in the pawn shop--emerged from the water.

What luck!

Turning his attention back to the huge redfish, he found that it was gone. Somehow that fish had thrown that hook and disappeared.

Did it flop back into the bay? How on earth did that fish vanish without so much as a splash?

Cris looked around for signs telling how that fish had disappeared when he noticed a short, round man in a red suit with black knee boots disappear into a stand of sea cane nearby.

Cris paused. Could it be ... you know who? Maybe ... Nah! Probably not.

One thing he knew for sure: that redfish had delivered a brand new, shiny rod with the bright red Garcia reel that he had worked so hard for all summer long.

He gathered his things and started for home on his bicycle knowing--kind of--what had just happened. Arriving there, he hid the new rod and reel in the garage and slipped back inside just as Gramps was stirring from his nap.

On Christmas morning, he was up before Gramps, placing the now clean, shiny new rod and bright red Garcia reel under the evergreen tree with the glittering golden star attached.

The smile that lit Gramps' face when he saw the new rod and reel was the best Christmas gift Cris could have received. He knew he and Gramps would spend plenty of quality time together in the days to come, sitting on the edge of the bay in pursuit of the mighty redfish.

Happy Holidays
During this holiday season, we wish you all the best.

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Kaz's Christmas List From Page 2B

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And a VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS to my e-mail readers Dick and Gail Kazmar, Bobbie, Dick and Joe Wechter, Don and Linda Bivens, Karen and Brian Smith, Lt. Logan Smith, Earl Thomas, Brock and Glenna Bult, R.C. Slocum, Paul Groncki, Jim Rodda, Bobbie Earle, Wayne and Kaye Morris and for anyone I may have missed, especially you, my loyal readers who have been with Kaz's Korner since its inception Sept. 12, 1966.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **CAROLYN MARIE BLAND**, Deceased, were issued on the **DECEMBER 16, 2021**, in Cause No. **P19275**, pending in the County Court at Law No. 2 of Orange County, Texas, to: **Wendy Bland Faulk f/k/a Wendy Ann Bland Gerald**.

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: **Tommy Gunn Attorney at Law** 202 S. Border Street Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 16th day of December, 2021.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

Attorney for: **Wendy Bland Faulk** State Bar No.: 08623700 202 S. Border Street Orange, TX 77630 Phone: (409)882-9990 Fax: (409)882-0613 Email:tommy@gunnlaw.org

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **MICHAEL EDWARD LESTER**, Deceased, were issued on the **DECEMBER 16, 2021**, in Cause No. **P19261**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **James G. Lester**.

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: **Tommy Gunn Attorney at Law** 202 S. Border Street Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 16th day of December, 2021.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

Attorney for: **James G. Lester**. State Bar No.: 08623700 202 S. Border Street Orange, TX 77630 Phone: (409)882-9990 Fax: (409)882-0613 Email:tommy@gunnlaw.org

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **ANNA LUCILLE RICHEY**, Deceased, were issued on the **DECEMBER 16, 2021**, in Cause No. **P19209**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Alan Dale Richey**.

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: **Tommy Gunn Attorney at Law** 202 S. Border Street Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 16th day of December, 2021.

Tommy Gunn
Tommy Gunn

Attorney for: **Alan Dale Richey** State Bar No.: 08623700 202 S. Border Street Orange, TX 77630 Phone: (409)882-9990 Fax: (409)882-0613 Email:tommy@gunnlaw.org

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