

The Penny Record

Vol. 62 No. 29

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

Week of Wednesday, December 29, 2021

County cleans up, eyes CP Chem decision

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

As the Year 2022 looks forward to taking off at midnight Friday, Orange County leaders are looking to the west for a sign.

They're all awaiting Chevron Phillips Chemical officials headquartered in The Woodlands to disclose a go or no-go decision on a building a \$6 billion ethylene plant on the southeast side of the county, north of the current Chemical Row, FM 1006.

"We just want to try to get completed with this [hurricane] recovery stuff," Orange County Judge John Gothia said, beginning his answer when asked his New Year's goals for the county.

"And then," he continued, "I'd like to see some of these potential projects that are out there lurking – new facilities and expansions – hopefully we get some good news on those."

"That's kind of the hope at this point."

Besides the possibility of a full-blown Chevron Phillips Chemical plant across Texas 87 from the Orange County Airport, an expansion of the Entergy Texas power plant west of Bridge City has been announced.

Coupled with Chevron Phillips Chemical plant, the two would mean more than 1,500 construction jobs over



OC Judge John Gothia



BC Mayor David Rutledge

a four- to five-year period. Still awaiting an official go-ahead is the Gisela Houseman Medical Center set to be located south of Interstate 10 at Highway 62.

Contractors for the City of Orange are at work on Eagle Point Parkway, which would provide access to the site.

"I predict more growth," Bridge City Mayor David Rutledge said, "that we'll continue with more growth in population, houses being built, those kinds of things."

"I'm hoping that economic

LOCAL LEADERS EYE Page 3A

Virus creeps up on Orange County

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

The Texas Department of State Health Services is reporting 47 new COVID-19 cases in Orange County, a 56 percent jump over last week's reported 30 cases.

The highly contagious omicron variant has led to a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases in Texas.

"It's rocking and rolling with the resurgence we're having right now," Orange County Judge John Gothia said Monday.

"Our call center is receiving four times as many calls as it's been getting. We've seen a huge increase the last seven to eight days of people coming in to be tested."

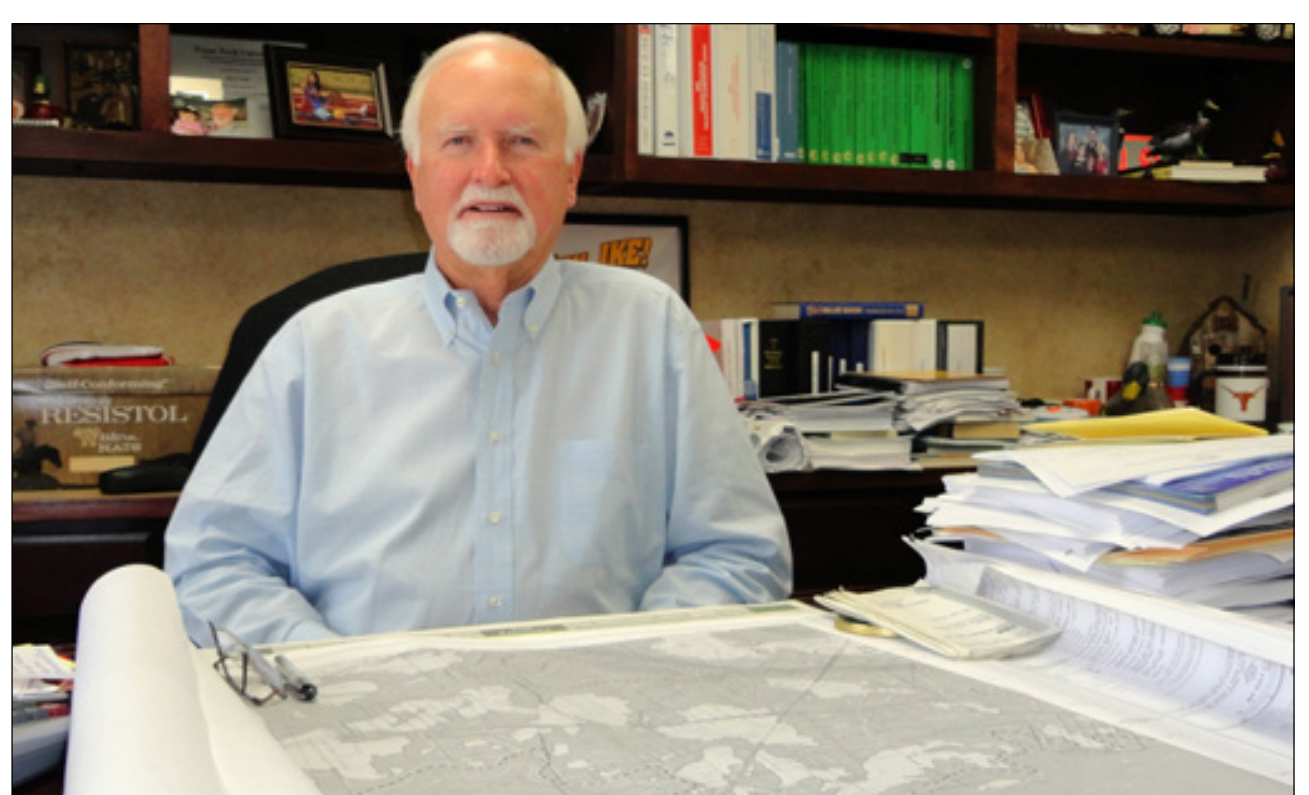
"This new omicron variant is a lot more contagious, but it seems to be less severe."

People who are getting vaccinated and have had their booster are many less times to get it."

The county is operating an immunization clinic near Baptist Hospital Orange, but citizens are asked to preregister by calling 409-550-2536.

Drive-through testing for Covid and Covid antibodies is temporarily being offered at 608 Strickland in the front entrance drive thru in front of Baptist Hospital-Orange from Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A driver's license or identification card is required. The site is being coordinated by Healthtrack RX and Embry Health. It was previously located at Lamar State College Orange but moved out as the school was closed for the holidays.



Jerry Jones, longtime city manager for Bridge City, is set to retire Jan. 15 after 22 years of employment with the city. RECORD FILE PHOTO: Debby Schamber

Ike response tops Jones' Bridge City memories

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Jerry Jones was just making the jump from Director of Bridge City's Public Works Department to the office of City Manager in September of 2005 when Hurricane Rita blew through the area on the heels of Hurricane Katrina hitting New Orleans.

But Jones really earned his spurs as city leader, working with Mayor Kirk Roccaforte three years later as Hurricane Ike did its best to wipe the city off the map.

A Category 2 storm of 100-plus winds sent a surge

of up to 14 feet of water sweeping over south Orange County and left only 16 of Bridge City's 3,000 or so homes without significant wind and/or water damage.

"We've gone through several hurricanes and rebuilt," Jones said Tuesday, "but getting through Ike alone was the major challenge we've faced."

Jones is retiring as of Jan. 15 after 16 years as city manager, having served the previous six years as public works director.

He and wife Sherlon live only a couple of blocks away from City Hall and plan to remain there. Jones expects

to be a regular at grandkids' games and school assemblies.

"We've got a ton of grandkids and a bunch of family here," he said. "We want to enjoy them all."

A native of Silsbee and a huge University of Texas sports fan, Jones had many pieces of Longhorn memorabilia – footballs, plaques, photos, even a UT golf bag – remaining in his office Tuesday.

As he spoke David Rutledge, Bridge City's mayor, sorted through the dozen applications the city has received to succeed Jones.

City Council held a pair of

closed-door executive committee meetings earlier this month to discuss what they were looking for in their next city manager.

Rutledge said he expects a couple of more executive sessions with a goal to name a new city manager by the end of January.

"We're reviewing applications to see which ones are going to best fit our city," the mayor said. "We expect then to interview two to four of the 12 applicants we've received."

"It's hard to put a timetable on it, because there are a

JERRY JONES Page 3A

DPS Encourages Safe Driving New Years

Staff Report
For The Record

AUSTIN – The Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) is encouraging everyone to end 2021 safely as they head out on the road for the holidays. The Texas Highway Patrol will conduct its annual Christmas and New Year's holiday traffic enforcement campaigns that began on Dec. 23, looking for people who are speeding, not wearing their seat belts, driving while intoxicated or committing other traffic violations.

"It's always nice to celebrate the holidays with

friends and family, but please keep the well-being of other travelers at the forefront of your mind as you head out," said DPS Director Steven McCraw. "Troopers will be protecting the public on the roads, but we depend on other drivers to do their part, as well, so everyone can have a safe and happy holiday."

The Highway Patrol will increase enforcement as part of the initiative: The nationwide Operation CARE (Crash Awareness and Reduction Effort), which runs from Dec. 23 through Jan. 2.

During DPS' 2020 Christmas and New Year's enforcement efforts, there were

116,810 citations and warnings issued. This included 14,499 speeding citations; 1,636 seat belt and child seat violations; 2,625 citations for driving without insurance; and 820 citations and warnings for Move Over, Slow Down violations. In addition, last year's enforcement efforts resulted in 1,185 felony arrests, 615 DWI arrests and 355 fugitives arrested.

DPS offers the following tips for making the holiday season a safe one:

- Don't drink and drive. Make alternate plans if you are consuming alcohol.

- Move Over or Slow Down for police, fire, EMS, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) vehicles and tow trucks stopped on the side of the road with emergency lights activated. Show the same courtesy to other drivers who are stopped on the side of the road. This year alone, between Jan. 1 and Dec. 14, DPS issued 12,060 warnings and citations for Move Over, Slow Down violations.

- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle, it's the law.

- Slow down, especially in bad weather, heavy traffic,

DPS STEPS UP Page 3A

Democracy's Greatest Danger

CARL PARKER
For The Record

After chairing the Texas Senate Education Committee for several years, I am absolutely convinced that although education is expensive, it is not near so expensive as ignorance. I am also convinced that ignorance is the greatest danger to a free society. Jefferson and others of our founders often advocated knowledgeable citizens were essential to a free society. There is a growing concern today as to whether or



our educational system is producing the level of knowledge essential for the preservation of a free democratic society in America.

The following test should give us an indication as to whether or not the next generation is being adequately prepared to handle the government we would like for our children and grandchildren.

TEST

1. What are the first ten

amendments to the Constitution?

2. What is the name of the vice-president of the United States?

3. Can you name a member of the United States Supreme Court?

4. Who is the governor of Texas?

5. Can you name your state representative or member of Congress?

6. What is the Electoral College?

7. Who makes the rules for your school district?

8. What body governs

counties?

9. How often do we vote to elect a president of the United States?

If you are a high school senior or graduate and cannot answer at least half of these questions, our system is obviously not doing an adequate job to prepare the next generation to preserve our government and way of life. If, as I suspect, our young people fail the test, we should all make it our business to contact our school boards, school superintendents, and

members of our various governments and demand more and better attention to the preparedness of the next generation to be productive American citizens.

About The Aurtor:

Carl Parker spent 32 years in the Texas Legislature, and for over 60 years, has practiced law on local, state, national, and international levels. He is the managing attorney of The Parker Law Firm, which is headquartered in Port Arthur and also has an office in Austin near the Texas Capitol.

Deaths & Memorials

Lauren "Laur Laur" Grace Brinkley, 19, BC

Lauren "Laur" "Laur" Grace Brinkley, 19, of Bridge City, passed away on December 21, 2021.

Funeral services will be 2:00 p.m., Thursday, December 30, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City. Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Wednesday, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City.

Born in Nederland, Texas, on February 15, 2002, she was the daughter of Landon Brinkley and Jiam (McAbee) Brinkley. Lauren had an outgoing and artistic soul. She enjoyed everything from painting, identifying plants in the woods, and going to the gun range with the men in her family especially her brother, Tyler.

There was never a dull moment with Lauren in the room and her sense of humor kept everyone laughing. Lauren loved animals and could always be found with the radio up listening to her favorite music.

She left an impact on many lives in her short time here on earth and will be pro-



Nancy Prouse

foundly missed by all who knew and loved her.


She was preceded in death by her grandmother, Claire Brinkley; aunt, Pearl Gilbert, and uncle, David Lute.

She is survived by her father, Landon Brinkley of Orange; mother, Jiam Brinkley of Bridge City; grandparents, Jim and Debbie McAbee of Bridge City and L.C. Brinkley of Gardner, Louisiana; uncles, Matt McAbee and Gary McAbee; aunts, Rhonda Castilo, Tammy Brinkley, and Samantha Brinkley; brother, Tyler Brinkley and fiancé Haley Holden of Orange; and numerous other loving cousins, family, and friends.


Honorary pallbearers are Tyler Brinkley, Dalton, Dustin, James, Colt, and Chance McAbee.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Mental Health of America Foundation at 500 Montgomery Street Suite 820 Alexandria, VA 22314 or call them at (703) 838-7558.

Cremation will be under the direction of Claybar Funeral Home.



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Omicron rips through Texas

REN LARSON
THE TEXAS TRIBUNE

The omicron variant has led to a surge in positive cases across Texas, and some hospital regions are seeing numbers of COVID-19 patients that rival last winter.

The variant, which is now known to be more transmissible than delta and the original virus strain, has also led to the state's highest rate of positive cases with more than 1 in 5 covid tests reading positive.

In Texas, the positive case rate surpassed 10% by mid-December which put the state in a "red zone," a rating where federal officials encourage more restrictions to limit the virus' spread. More than a week later, the rate has more than doubled reaching its highest point yet with a 22.3% positivity rate.

The high positivity rates hasn't yet translated into more deaths or dramatic hospitalizations in Texas, but some states that saw a surge in COVID-19 cases in November and early December are near or have surpassed record hospitalizations from the virus.

Michigan, Vermont, Maine and New Hampshire reached their highest hospitalization rates in December, according to CNN, however, the number of patients being treated for COVID-19 in Texas hospitals is still far below the surges seen during the winter of 2020 and this past fall.

On Tuesday, the Austin American-Statesman reported that the Austin area will be returning to Stage 4, which recommends that partially and unvaccinated peo-

ple avoid unessential activities including indoor dining and shopping.

Experts the Tribune spoke with are seeing an increase in COVID-19 patients in hospitals, and anticipate them to rise. But this more infectious variant is having a major impact on hospital staffing, said Dr. James McDeavitt, the executive vice president and dean of clinical affairs at Baylor College of Medicine.

"The difference with this surge is because this is so infectious and everyone is getting sick, everyone is calling out sick," McDeavitt said. "It's not as much about the number of people in the hospitals, it's more about the number of health care workers who they themselves are getting sick and need to be isolated."

And with many hospitals recording persistent nursing shortages, even if there are available ICU beds, they might not have anyone to staff it.

Statewide, roughly 1 in 14 hospital patients are being treated for COVID, but the number is a lot higher in hospitals serving the El Paso area and the Texas Panhandle, where at least 1 in 6 hospital beds are occupied by a COVID-19 patient.

The number of active COVID-19 cases at assisted living facilities in the state has more than doubled over the past two weeks, but the 124 active cases registered on Monday is a fraction of the more than 900 measured this time last year.

"We're at the beginning stages of this wave, we're really still watching it," Carmen Tilton, vice president of

public policy with the Texas Assisted Living Association, said. "I'm not seeing in the data a wildfire of cases in assisted living facilities in Texas."

Tilton, whose organization advocates on behalf of assisted living facilities across the state, noted that the best defense is adhering to mask policies, screening and testing that can identify cases early on and limit contact between positive staff, resident or visitors.

"We are going to see outbreaks because when you have high levels of community spread in the surrounding community you're going to have a positive case," Tilton said. "You can't hermetically seal these buildings."

The sharp increase in positive cases has been at a level most communities had not yet seen in the pandemic, including in the Houston area, where they went from several hundred two weeks ago, to more than 5,000 average daily cases, according to Dr. Esmaeil Porsa, president and CEO of Harris Health System.

"So far, that crazy increase in the number of cases has not equated to a crazy increase in hospitalizations," Porsa said. "They are going up but they are not going up proportionally to the number of cases."

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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Jerry Jones retiring From Page 1

number of variables.” Rutledge acknowledged that a new hire might need a few weeks to get on the job, what with giving notice to the employer they’re leaving and wrapping up other loose ends.

“It helps because Jerry has graciously volunteered to help us out with advice if we need it. If we need something, we’ll call. And if he’s out fishing, we’ll wait for him.

“And we won’t have anybody sitting in this (city manager’s) desk until we hire his replacement. We’re not hiring any interim managers. The department heads will carry on.”

Bridge City lost about 10 percent of its population after being hit by two hurricanes in 36 months (falling from 8,600 in 2000 to 7,800 in 2010). The Census Bureau has yet to release an official population total from the 2020 census, but there’s no doubt the number of residents is rising fast.

“The housing stats are way up. It’s almost impossible to find rental property,” Jones said. “We’re looking at the plants coming in the next few years (the still to be finalized Chevron Phillips Chemical plant and a second

power generation unit at Entergy). That’s really going to put a strain on housing.”

Bridge City issued building permits for 43 single-family homes and several new commercial sites, including KFC and Hops Brewery, with several more businesses taking over vacant property.

Besides dealing with hurricane recovery, the top achievements of Jones’ tenure include:

• Extending water and sewer lines, expanding the sewer plant and building a water tower on FM 408;

• Expanding Bridge City Park, adding new playground equipment and a new splash pad to beat the summertime heat;

• Installing filters on the water system to eliminate the “brown water” caused by iron and manganese.

But Ike, which Jones called, “a once in a lifetime” event, will stick with Jones. Because he and other city and county leaders used it to write the book on emergency response.

“The biggest thing we did when we came back in was get the water and sewer plants operational as soon as we could,” he said.

“The second thing was to

clear the roadways, because they had 2-6 inches of marsh silt covering them. It was very slick and cars couldn’t drive on them.

“We were basically trying to get everything cleared out so people could come back.”

Electricity was out for weeks or months for parts of the city.

“Basically, everything everybody had was destroyed,” Jones said. “We set up a shelter at the Public Works warehouse (next to City Hall) and two guys worked every day cooking so we could feed everybody.

“After that, we started to get generators for our (sewer) lift stations. We had a fuel truck bring in fuel for everybody. Before we left town [evacuated], we had established contracts for fuel and generators. When they could get in, they supplied us pretty quickly.

“It was a slow process, but one of the major things we did was allow people to park travel trailers and FEMA trailers in their yard, so they could stay here and work in their houses.

“That was the biggest thing: People could stay here and get the cleanup started quickly.”

Candice Conroy Steele vies for JP, Pct. 3

The following is a political statement issued by Candice Conroy Steele on her candidacy for Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3:



Candice Conroy Steele

My name is Candice Conroy Steele and I am running for Justice of the Peace; Precinct 3, Orange County, Texas.

I have been married to my husband, Mark Steele, Sr. for 18 years and we have three children, a son-in-law, a daughter-in-law and two grandchildren. I am a graduate of Orangefield High School and have lived in Precinct 3 for the last 20 years.

I have worked in the legal field for over 30 years and I

community and often support many school and extracurricular activities.

I am looking forward to becoming Justice of the Peace as it will allow me the opportunity to work with the people of Orange County. If elected, I intend to be accessible to all citizens, work diligently and bring honesty and integrity to the office of Justice of the Peace. Further, I will work tirelessly for the citizens of Precinct 3 and Orange County.

I would appreciate your vote and support and ask that you consider me, Candice Conroy Steele as your Justice of the Peace, Precinct 3.

Local leaders eye 2022 From Page 1

development prospect [the Chevron Phillips Chemical ethylene plant north of Chemical Row] gains a little more traction and we hear that our county is going to be the chosen site. I’d like to see more work going on out there.”

Besides recovering from the record-setting rains of Hurricanes Harvey in 2017 and Tropical Storm Imelda in 2019, the county has had to deal with destructive winds from Hurricanes Laura and Delta last year.

And then there’s the COV-

ID pandemic, which has been ongoing since March of 2020. Cases here are starting a spike from the omicron variant.

“I think COVID is going to hit us for a little while but hopefully this omicron variant won’t be as severe,” Rutledge said. “After that, I think things will pick up across the area.

“I see some businesses coming in, some improvements along Texas Avenue.

“We continue to work with the county and Drainage District to keep drainage im-

provements moving forward.

“I’m looking forward to the widening of FM 1442 between FM 408 and FM 105 to four lanes.”

In West Orange, Mayor Randy Branch said:

“I predict that we’re going to continue to work on improvements in West Orange in order to turn the city into a vibrant place that people want to move to and live.

“I know we’re supposed to be getting a CP Chem plant and hopefully we use the grant funds we have to make this place look a little better.”

DPS stepping up patrols From Page 1

unfamiliar areas or construction zones.

- Eliminate distractions while driving, including the use of mobile devices. Texas law prohibits the use of portable wireless devices to read, write or send an electronic message unless the vehicle is stopped. If you’re using a navigation device or app, have a passenger manage it, so you can keep your eyes on the road.
- Drive defensively, as holiday travel can present additional challenges.
- Don’t drive fatigued —

allow plenty of time to reach your destination.

- On multi-lane roads, use the left lane for passing only. Not only is it courteous driving and avoids impeding traffic, Texas law requires slower traffic to keep to the right and use the left lane for passing only (when posted).

If you can Steer It, Clear It: If you are involved in a non-injury crash and your vehicle can be moved, clear the traffic lanes to minimize traffic impact. Leaving vehicles in a traffic lane increases traffic congestion and leaves those

involved with an increased risk of harm or a secondary wreck. On some highways, if you don’t move your vehicle when it’s safe to do so, it’s illegal.

- Check your vehicle to make sure it’s properly maintained and always ensure your cargo is secure.
- Keep the Texas Roadside Assistance number stored in your phone. Dial 1-800-525-5555 for any type of roadside assistance.

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Matt Chandler was born in Orange, Texas and has been a life-long Orange County resident. He and his wife Brittney Chandler have three beautiful children: daughters Blakely and Everly, and son, Shepard.

Matt is a graduate of Orangefield High School and went to college in Dallas. He has been serving in multiple ministries roles since 2005 and is currently the Pastor of Life Church in Orange. Matt previously served on the Pinehurst City Council and also served as Mayor Pro Tem. He currently serves on the Board of Directors for Sabine Federal Credit Union and for the Optimist Orange-Noon, TX club.

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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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From The Creaux's Nest

THE YEAR 2021 WHEN WE NEARLY LOST OUR WAY

When January 1, rolled around we were already facing the head winds of a worldwide pandemic, COVID-19. Fortunately a vaccine had been developed in record time and others on the way. There wasn't any concerted effort being applied by our government to get shots into citizen's arms. We faced the possibility of losing millions of American lives. Shortly after the Jan. 21 inauguration of President Joe Biden, his administration went into an all-out effort to get as many people as possible vaccinated. The goal was to get to 70% vaccinated in hopes herd immunity would kick in. The plan was met with some right-wing opposition and conspiracy theories on social media and conservative talk show outlets. The fight was difficult enough, then before years in, we were faced with a new virus, Omicron, which is the major health problem facing us in the year 2022. The day that will live in infamy is Jan. 6, 2021, the day the sitting president of the United States unleashed a mob against his own government, a kind of third-world dictatorship. Never before has the United States Capital been invaded by a domestic mob, mostly were followers of former president Donald Trump. Having followed the life of New Yorker Trump and after watching him in office for four years, I never would have doubted that he was capable of doing anything, but not turn against the democracy of the United States. It was a dark day in our history and the most un-American action against our country in my lifetime, not since the Civil War. Trump, who almost pulled off a dictatorship, after losing the election by 7 million popular votes and being soundly defeated by the Electoral College, fortunately was run out of office. He has since promoted the 'Big Lie.' He planted a seed that the election was stolen from him that has spread like wildfire across the country among his supporters. Chances are enough people have seen the light and we will never again see Trump hold public office. He is determined to wreck havoc from his role as the Godfather in future mid-term elections. Someday the Republican Party will again be the Grand Old Party, but it won't be as long as the self-centered New Yorker has control of the party. Buckle up, it's a new year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR—WELCOME TO 2022

We can only hope and pray that better days are in front of us and that the worst is now in the history books. It has been a difficult year in lockdown for me, and I'm sure many others. For me it seemed overnight my health started unwinding, just one thing after another. I want to thank the friends who took the time to check on me and stay in touch. I've missed hearing from many of you but I understand everyone has had their own floor to wax. Hopefully, before too long into the new year it will be safe enough that we can gather. I heard this morning that if you are not vaccinated, it's almost a given that you are a prime prospect for the virus. We in this area haven't been hit as hard as we are going to be in the next few weeks. Maybe by Spring most of it will be behind us. I've just went over the Lunch Bunch list and I sure miss you gals and guys. A lot of knowledge in one room. I often think about how fortunate we are to have good leadership in our schools, cities and other entities. Our county government is as good as any I can recall. Our district and county court at law judges are a great bunch, starting with district judges. Courtney Arkeen, Steve Parkhurst Rex Peveto, country court judges Troy Johnson and Mandy White-Rogers. I don't believe John Kimbrough ever gets enough credit for the good job he has done over the years. John runs a tight ship. I've known every district attorney since 1950, including Dugas and Bearden, and no one has done any better. We have a great bunch of constables also right now, including Brad. Thanks to our Justices of the Peace and all of law enforcement for the job they do. I have special praise for Doctor Tom Johnson, Lamar president, he's doing a great job at Lamar Orange and has some great plans in the works in the coming year. That guy wakes up with a smile everyday. He inspires me just talking to him, everyday he's on a high. What's he smoking anyway? Above all I want to thank all the good folks who make it possible to bring you this publication free each week. Special thanks to Brown's Hearing Air Centers, Harry's Appliance, who have been advertising with us for over 50 years. Special thanks to all our longtime faithful readers. We look forward to another year of the Creaux's Nest. Best wishes in 2022.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2012

We were sorry to hear about the death of Dick Lea, 84, who passed away Jan. 4. We had known Dick, the younger brother of Bill, Johnny, Spiv and Hugh. Bill, Hugh and Dick were all attorneys. At one time Bill served as district attorney in Jefferson County. Back in the early 60's, Hugh

and Dick maintained a law office on Short Six Street, near Farmer's Mercantile, in the same building that later housed the Opportunity Valley Newspaper. Dick left here and went to work for NASA, at Johnson Space Center. Brother Hugh moved to East Texas where he married Johnny Horton and Hank William's widow. She was also the sister of David Houston. Bill later moved to the beach. Their dad had been a very popular mayor of Orange who was instrumental in the building of the Rainbow Bridge. They were kin to many who were prominent in the history of Orange and their roots ran deep in Orange society. My friendship with the Lea brothers goes back a long way. Our condolences to wife Jean, daughter Brette and the family. The Lea boys are all gone now but the Lea family left its mark. We ran into Donna Riley, one of our favorite people we've known since she was a teenage D.E. student at Bridge City High. Through all those years, she's done to ride the range with. She's not only nice and sweet she is always so accommodating. Donna says she and husband David, visited Roy and Anna Belle Rost's hometown of Abbeville and spoke of how unique the Cajun town is and about the great food they ate. Judge David Peck and Patsy visited Ms. Ed Parker, now living in Branson. She is the widow of the late sheriff. Friday, Jan. 13, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., a gathering will be held for Linda Cupit, who is retiring after 31 years with Sabine Federal Credit Union (Dupont). Our buddy Dr. Lee Brown, founder of Brown Hearing Aids, has been under the weather and hospitalized. Here's hoping he's on the mend. God speed. We ran into our longtime buddy, CPA Larry Webb, the other day. I can report Larry is big and healthy. He bought a place on Strapper Dr. in Bridge City and has remodeled it. He has a million dollar view of the marshland and the Rainbow and Memorial bridges. CAJUN DEFINITION: Beignet (ben-yea), Cajun French for "French Donut." A delicious, sweet doughnut, square shaped and minus the hole, lavishly sprinkled with powdered sugar. Sometime served with chicory flavored café au lait coffee and steamed milk like Café DuMonde serves in New Orleans. As a kid my grandmother made beignets often and we ate them with Steen syrup. Sop it up.

20 Years Ago-2002

Gage Michael Martinez, born at Baptist Hospital in Orange at 1:08 p.m., Jan. 2, is Orange County's first born of 2002. The son of April and Joseph Martinez, of Bridge City, weighed in at eight pounds, two ounces and was 19 inches long. Recently appointed Bridge City High counselor, Glen Prince, an Orange County native, was born in Orange, grew up in B.C. and lived in Little Cypress. Glen will also announce the football games, a job he inherited from Terry Stuebing, who was named High School principal. Jo-El Sonnier and Gatemouth Brown will headline the 15th annual Janis Joplin bash Sat., Jan. 19. Sonnier and Brown will also be inducted into the Museum of the Gulf Coast Music Hall of Fame. Lou Raburn is named Bridge City "Citizen of the Year." Serving on the committee to name citizen were Maria-leice Saucier, Caroline Sheppard and Don Peters. John "Jack" Dorman, 74, died Jan. 4. Jack had suffered a stroke in 1993 that left him immobile. Service was held at Claybar Funeral Home, Jan. 7. He leaves behind wife Vivian, daughter Donna Scales, sons Johnny and Larry Dale and several grandchildren. (Editor's note: Since Jack's death, Ms. Vivian has also passed away.) Singer Wayland Jennings recently had a foot amputation, resulting from diabetes. Waylon was a member of Buddy Holly's band. He gave up his seat to J.P. Richardson on the plane that crashed and killed all passengers, including Holly. Everyone is talking about Van Choate's Cajun Cookery being the place to eat the best seafood buffet. Two Bridge City football players, Matt Peebles and Joe Khoury, were nominated for the Willie Ray Smith award. Pretty Karen Jo Vance, county clerk, announces her candidacy for re-election. She was elected to the office in 1998. She started in the clerk's office in 1976, served under Sallie Frazier and Molly Teriot before being elected with 75 percent of the vote. She was born in Kentucky on Dec. 28, 1954. In 1955, her parents, Jack and Mary Lee Wright, moved to Texas where she grew up in Roselawn. Both of her parents passed away in 2001. She graduated from Stark High and married her high school sweetheart, Robert Vance, in Sept. 1973. (Editor's note: Karen Jo is still pretty, still married to Robert and oh yea, she still reads the Record every week.)

45 Years Ago-1977

Barry Wiseman had knee surgery again to repair an old football injury. Sue Pate was selected "Woman of the Year" by the Bridge City B&PW. Dr. Mark Messer is the new Bridge City chamber president. Flo and Gene Edgerly attended a reception in Austin for new senator Carl Parker and governor Dolph Briscoe. Harry Hubbard, state president of AFL-CIO, will be the feature speaker at the Bridge City Chamber banquet. Attorney Sharon Bearden and police chief Wilson Roberts go on their annual new year's diet. Friends expect the same results they have had over the last 15 years. The temperature hits a low 17 degrees this week. Dick Bivens is remodeling his Texas Ave Grocery store. The lovely young lady up front at the checkout stand is his daughter Betty. What a doll.

50 YEARS AGO-1971

Judge James Neff will not be seeking re-election to the 128 District Court. Attorney Graham Bruce is the only announced candidate so far. Others expected to run are former judge Frank "Dub" Hustmyre, Bill Sexton and Louis Dugas, if Sexton doesn't run. Both are criminal attorneys. Christmas is behind us and a new year is on the way. Happy New Year to a few friends, Judge Grover Halliburton, Asa Mansfield, Judge Sid Callivet, Alvin Keown, Councilman Red Garrett, District Attorney J. Sharon Bearden, Robert Sims, Adolph Hrchoruk, Fain Holbrook, Harry Stephens, Charlie Dyer, Scotty Smith, Al Mallet, Larry Bergeron, attorney Paul Owen, Gordon

Baxter, attorney Jim Graves, attorney Wayne Peveto, Frank Manchac, Jimmy Conn, coach Chief Wilson, Corky Harmon, Charlie Wickersham, judge Jmes Stringer, Joe Runnels, Bob Montagne, Nolton Brown, attorney H.D. Pate, Joe Blanda, Moe Litton, Roy Wingate, Junior Clark, Jim Morris, John Young, Cecil Scales, Tim Hughes, Richard Corder, Dewey 'Teddy Bear' Cox, Jack Huffman, Marlin Shelton, Ed Lovelace, Dovey Sartin, Major Enmon, Neal Miller, Jr., D.J. 'Ace' Amedeo, Elmer Newman, Doug Harrington, Dow Gene Anderson, Curtis Lee. Just a few of the great folks around 50 years ago. Few are still with us. Orange County Evening Optimist Club president, Roy Dunn, received awards from Optimist International president, Norman L. Shipley, of Union, Ontario, Canada. Dunn received a gold watch, a gold ring with O.I. symbol and the Outstanding President citation. With over 3,000 clubs in the United States and Canada, the Orange Optimist was only 251 to be recognized as both a distinguished and outstanding president. The Evening Optimist have over 40 members. Roy and Phyllis Dunn will celebrate their 17th wedding anniversary New Year's Eve, Dec. 31. They have three children and live in Bridge City.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Last week, on Dec. 22, our longtime friend Judge Buddie Hahn celebrated his 78th birthday. I always believed his birthday was Dec. 21. I've been wrong all these years. Buddie and Carol celebrated their 55 wedding anniversary on Dec. 23. Because of Texas law, Buddie had to give up his district judgeship due to age limitation. He loved the work and I figured he's been bored doing nothing. Well, I learned he's picked up a gig in Jefferson County that allows him to do judge work about three days a week. Attorney Sharon Bearden just turned 83 years old. He was working Christmas Eve at his office preparing for two upcoming trials. Attorney's Jack Smith and Jim Dunaway, also in their 80's, work at their law practice every day. It's proof that if you love what you are doing and are good at it, there is no reason to retire. All will do to ride the range with. I'd saddle up with them any day. Some of you might remember Bridge City coach Rick Colson, who coached here with Les Johnson. Rick had a young son, Jake, who was in the 6th or 7th grade. Rick had coached with Les at Bastrop, where Jake was born, and also in Bridge City. Jake has been a successful coach in Florida and Bastrop, with a 10-2 season, is looking for a new head coach. Jake has applied for the job, a chance to come home. Coach Les Johnson, who is a legend in Bastrop, lives there and says Jake has a shot at the job. Our friend Tommy Simar took a fall, face first, that didn't improve his looks. Wife Sue says Tom just doesn't want to admit he's getting older and tries to hurry his steps. A few folks we know who will be celebrating in the next few days. Dec. 29: Happy Birthday to Kenny Dupuis, Karen Phares, Donna Self, Jacklyn Bradberry, Lauren Leyer and Sherrie Reid. Dec. 30: Celebrating today are Rebecca Hannegan, Paula Aven, Kyle Walron and Karl Stringer. Dec. 31: A great lady, Norma Fusilier, celebrates today as does Holly DeRouin, Richard Hunter, Jessica Anderson and Sandra Hovind. Jan. 1, 2022: Born on New Year's Day are Joanne Hill, Cynthia Hernandez, Glenda Wilburn and Ronnie Hearn. Jan. 2: Happy Birthday to Christina White, Johnny Asevedo, Amber Cortez, Angela Abshire, Cody Johnson, Jason Sieck, David Villanouvea and Kathy Mercer. Jan. 3: Jim Sharon Bearden turns 48 and he's as happy as a 21 year old. Life is great he says. Our buddy, Commissioner Owen Burton, celebrates today. He doesn't feel like a 25 year old but Nelda has enough energy for both of them. Also Happy Birthday to Barbara Dardeau and Betty Johnson. Jan. 4: Happy Birthday to a longtime friend Beth Rash. We wish for her a better year health wise. Also celebrating are Vergie Moreland, Devin Force and Mary Williams.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Old people have problems that younger people haven't considered yet. Eight-five year old J.C. "Tee-Nonk" Boudreaux was requested by Dr. DeVille, as part of his physical exam, a sperm count. Dr. DeVille said, "Take dis jar home and bring back a semen count sample tomorrow."

"Okay, I do dat me, said Tee-Nonk."

Da nex day, Tee-Nock came to da doctor's office and gave Dr. DeVille da jar, wat was clean and empty.

Dr. DeVille axe, "Wat happen Tee-Nonk?"

Tee Nonk say, "Well, it's like dis, first I tried with my right and den my left but nutten happen. Den I axe my wife Blanche for help. She tried wit boat hands, den she tried wit her mouth, wit her teets in and wit dem out, still nutten."

Blanche call our neighbor Agnes and she tried too, first wit boat hands and den her arm pit but still nutten."

Dr. DeVille was shocked him, "You axe you neighbor?"

Eighty-five year old Tee-Nonk answer, "Sure did and none of us couldn't open dat darn jar."

Editor's note: Containers should be easier for old folks to open.

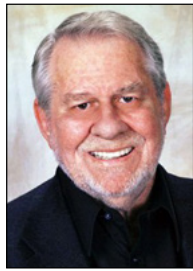
C'EST TOUT Is Gary Hanging It UP

You always hate to hear about a business that has become legendary shutting down. Word on the street is that Gary Stelly, only the fourth owner of radio station KOGT, is shutting the station down Dec. 31. I understand why that might happen. Its hard work, advertising is down, COVID, etc. There's enough advertising locally to support local media outlets but so much of it is going out of town. My guess is that Gary will keep the website and have more time for fishing and not have to fight the daily grind. Best wishes in the new year to our friend tax-assessor Karen Fisher, also to county treasure Christy Khoury and our buddy Alice Hartsfield. Thanks for your time, mine is up. Take care and God bless.

67-Years: Not a record but a pretty good average

DOWNLIFE'S HIGHWAY
ROY DUNN
For The Record

On New Year's Eve, December 31, 2021, Phyl and I will celebrate our 67th wedding anniversary. Over the Thanksgiving Holidays we had all three of our children, five grandchildren and eight of our nine great-grandchildren with us.



Roy Dunn

Our oldest great-grandson Nate, in the Air Force, is stationed in South Dakota. It was such a joy to be around the small ones. There are four of them that are five years old and younger. Each one of them has their own personality.

When our grandchildren were coming up we were fortunate that they were raised around us. Some of the best times I've had was helping raise them. I used to say that I just wanted to stick around long enough to see what they would become. I'm proud to say they are all doing well. As far as the great-grandchildren, I can't hang around long enough to see what they become but I'm sure they will be fine. They are scattered around the country.

What's amazing out of the nine there is not a Dunn in the bunch. There will be no Dunn's going forward. There are only six of us with the Dunn name, Mark, Allen, Karen, Amber, Jenna and I. Our girl had boys and our boy had girls.

Here's how it started all those years ago. Our wedding day, December 31, 1954, was a nice morning and we had agreed to meet down the street from Phyl's house at a certain time. We picked up a friend, Margaret Hunt, who had agreed to be a witness or bridesmaid. She would accompany us to Kountze where a lady J.P. would marry us. Clarence McNelly, the clerk, would issue the license. We needed a blood test to get a license so several days before, not knowing where to go, I pulled into Hamilton's Clinic, in Beaumont. The doctor and employees were surprised at our request.

No one getting married had ever chosen

their place for a blood test because it was a hemorrhoid clinic. How in the world could this marriage ever fail with this great start. We married and returned to Port Arthur.

Phyl attended Bishop Byrne Catholic School and had it been discovered that she was married, she wouldn't have been able to graduate in May. The next few months we lived apart with only Margaret knowing about the marriage.

Phyl finished school and 10 months to the day, On October 31, our first child Mark was born. Two others followed, Allen two years after Mark and finally four years later, Karen, the girl Phyl was waiting for. Five grandchildren and nine great-grand kids have followed.

The most surprising is how quickly those 67 years have traveled. The odds for any couple making so many years are not very good, not only because of divorce but also sickness and death figures in. If it ends tomorrow, it's been a great ride.

Over the years we have lost to death hundreds of friends, each very special. When we married, all those years ago, we both had plenty of relatives, today they are nearly all gone.

As hard as it is to believe, it's been 67 years. It's also is unbelievable that we squeezed so much into one lifetime. That crazy start had all the elements for failure. It was really beating the odds.

These times will pass but until then, Phyl and I will enjoy the time we have together and take one day at a time. We are really blessed and despite some health problems we both have our mental facilities in tack. We're thankful the Lord allows us to continue working. I write the words, she types them, and like our long marriage, one day at a time, we put a paper out and look forward to the next one. It keeps our minds sharp and despite being well into our eighties, it gives us a sense of accomplishment. We would both be miserable sitting around being useless.

We will just move on to the next chapter and hopefully another year will roll around. I'm not sure what the record is for being married but it's something to shoot for.

Family, friends and having each other makes for a good life.



Thanksgiving Dunn Reunion



Dunn Great-grand Children Front Row: Luke, Chase, Liam, Willow, Juliana Back Row: Rowan, Delilah, Leland Not a Dunn in the bunch

Friends of the Orange Depot meeting and dinner Jan. 6

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.

Spouses are invited to this special dinner and meeting.

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.

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Orange County Church Directory

Ten Questions for a New Year

A New Year Is An Ideal Time To Renew Your Bearings On Life

Don Whitney
The Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary
desiringGod.org

Even those most faithful to God occasionally need to pause and think about the direction of their lives. It's so easy to bump along from one busy week to another without ever stopping to ponder where we're going and where we should be going.

Once, when the people of God had become careless in their relationship with him, the Lord rebuked them through the prophet Haggai: "Consider your ways!" (Haggai 1:5). He urged them to reflect on some of the things happening to them, and to evaluate their slipshod spirituality in light of what God had told them.

Ten Questions

The beginning of a new year is an ideal time to stop, look up, and get our bearings. A great time for us to "Consider our ways." To that end, here are some questions to ask prayerfully in the presence of God.

1. What's one thing you can do this year to increase your enjoyment of God?

Our enjoyment of God comes primarily through the means of grace he has given us. He has promised to bless us most directly and consistently through means such as his word, prayer, and the church. One specific suggestion I'd offer would be to include some meditation on Scripture along with your daily reading. It's better to read less — if necessary — and yet as the result of meditation remember something, than to read more and remember nothing.

2. What's an impossible prayer you can pray?

There are more than a dozen "but God" statements in



Scripture, such as in Romans 5:8, which reads, "but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." Situations that were humanly impossible were transformed by "but God" (Ephesians 2:1-7). What's a "but God" prayer you can pray for the coming year?

3. What's the most important thing you could do to improve your family life?

If your family doesn't practice family worship, beginning there is the single best recommendation I could make. Just ten minutes a day, simply reading the Bible, praying, and singing together — an event that requires no preparation — is all it takes. My little book titled Family Worship can tell you more.

4. In which spiritual discipline do you most want to make progress this year?

Would it be a personal spiritual discipline (that is, one you practice alone), or an interpersonal spiritual discipline (one you practice with other believers)? Once you

decide, determine the next step to take and when you will take it.

5. What's the single biggest time-waster in your life, and how can you redeem the time?

Social media? TV? Video games? Sports? Hobbies? It's easy for any of these (or something else) to take too much of our hearts and time. Is repentance required? Trying to stop, by itself, is probably not the answer. Actively replacing it with something better helps us in "making the best use of the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16).

6. What's the most helpful new way you could strengthen your church?

While we often stress the fact that individual believers are the body of Christ (1

Corinthians 6:15), the New Testament actually says seven times to one that the church is the body of Christ (Ephesians 5:23). We mustn't let our frequent emphasis on our personal relationship with Christ minimize the importance of our service to Jesus through his body. How can your church be stronger this year because of you? Serving? Giving? Praying?

7. For whose salvation will you pray most fervently this year?

Praying frequently and fervently for someone's salvation makes us more sensitive to opportunities to share the gospel with him or her. Will you commit to praying for at least one person's salvation every day this new year?

8. What's the most important way, by God's grace, you will try to make

this year different from last? family, or your church.

Consider Your New Year

Obviously, God's sovereignty rules over all things, and there is nothing we can do about much that he brings into our lives. On the other hand, under his sovereignty he gives us a measure of responsibility over many areas of life. In which of these would you most like to see a change from last year? You may find that your answer to this question is found in one of your answers above. To which of them do you sense the Holy Spirit calling your attention most urgently?

9. What one thing could you do to improve your prayer life this year?

For many, it might be as simple as designating a time exclusively for prayer instead of praying only "on the go" types of prayers. For others, it might be learning the simple, biblical practice of praying the Bible.

10. What single thing can you plan to do this year that will matter most in ten years? In eternity?

Short-term deadlines tend to dominate our attention. Busyness and fatigue often limit our vision to just getting through today. But don't let the tyranny of the urgent distract you from something you're neglecting that would have enormous long-term impact on your soul, your

The value of many of these questions is not in their profundity, but in the simple fact that they bring an issue or commitment into focus. For example, just by making a goal to encourage one person in particular this year is more likely to help you remember to encourage that person than if you hadn't set that goal.

If you've found these questions helpful, you might want to put them someplace — on your phone, computer, calendar, or wherever you put reminders — where you can review them frequently.

I hope this article will help you to "consider your ways," to make plans and goals, and to live this new year with biblical diligence, remembering the principle that "the plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance" (Proverbs 21:5). But in all things, let's also remember our dependence on our King, who said, "Apart from me you can do nothing" (John 15:5).

Don Whitney is professor of biblical spirituality and associate dean at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, KY. He is the author of Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life, Praying the Bible, and Family Worship. Don's website is www.BiblicalSpirituality.org.

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For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

For some strange and unknown reason it seems like the older I get the faster things tend to repeat themselves. At times I would swear the pages on the calendar flip by two months at time instead of just one.

Recently I began the process of renewing my Coast Guard license for the 5th or 6th time and I started thinking about how much time that represented, especially knowing that its five years between each renewal. As I stood next to the island in my kitchen and opened up my new set of Coast Guard documents I couldn't help but take a short trip down memory lane. As a guide you remember a lot things about a lot of different trips and eventually they all feel as if they have run together.

There are however some things that always stick out like some of the bigger fish that have been caught and some of the crazier characters you encounter because they always come with a story. Perhaps some of my favorite memories are when someone on my boat catches their first fish, I truly cherish opportunities like that because they are indeed special. Just recently I was fortunate enough to have had such a trip and it was like a shot in the arm for me, a reminder of why I enjoy guiding so much.

A few weeks ago I was approached by a friend of mine about taking his family out on a fishing trip because his 8-year old son was completely infected with "fishing fever". It seems that during a cub scout exercise the young man was intro-

UZZLE/OUTDOORS Page 4B

Many NFL teams already know their destiny in 2022

KAZ'S KORNER
JOE KAZMAR
For The Record



Joe Kazmar

With only two more weeks remaining in the 2021 regular National Football League season, there are still a smattering of teams that don't know where they will be two weeks from now—in the postseason playoffs with a bye week, having the home field in the wild-card week, making the playoffs and waiting for an opponent, or already eliminated from the playoffs.

Our Houston Texans fall into that latter category—in fact, they were the first of the 32 NFL teams to officially be eliminated from the playoffs—and it happened a couple of weeks ago. The half-empty stadium Sunday verified that fact.

But those diehard Texans fans who did attend the game, saw perhaps the best

effort of the year at NRG Stadium by their hometown heroes as they outshined the Los Angeles Chargers 41-29, and that's after a "garbage-time" touchdown by the confused visitors near the end of the game.

Although Houston was a whopping 10½-point underdog, the only time the Texans trailed in the game was 3-0 in the first five minutes after a Chargers field goal and 12-7 early in the second period.

The Texans' advance scouts found out the Chargers had trouble stopping the run and Houston plowed through their defensive line 36 times for 191 yards rushing, with tailback Rex Burkhead getting 149 of them on



The Chargers had trouble stopping the run and Houston plowed through their defensive line 36 times for 191 yards rushing, with tailback Rex Burkhead getting 149 of them on 22 carries and two touchdowns.

22 carries and two touchdowns.

What made this victory so special was the fact the Texans had to replace 18 players who were sidelined with positive COVID-19 tests and had to be replaced by members of the practice squad, many of whom never played a down in an NFL

game. It was almost like the preseason exhibition games when many players' names were unfamiliar to the fans.

And these "strangers" had a chance to showcase their talent, and they did a marvelous job. In fact, the Monday's edition of the Houston

KAZ'S KORNER Page 3B

Kaz's Fearless Football Forecast . . .

COLLEGE FOOTBALL BOWL GAMES THIS WEEK

Pinstripe Bowl—1:15 p.m. Today at New York City (ESPN)—Maryland over Virginia Tech.

Cheese-It Bowl—4:45 p.m. Today at Orlando, FL. (ESPN)—Clemson over Iowa State.

Alamo Bowl—8:15 p.m. Today at San Antonio, TX. (ESPN)—Oklahoma over Oregon.

Duke's Mayo Bowl—10:30 a.m. Thursday at Charlotte, N.C. (ESPN)—North Carolina over South Carolina.

Music City Bowl—2 p.m. Thursday at Nashville, TN. (ESPN)—Tennessee over Purdue.

Peach Bowl—6 p.m. Thursday at Atlanta, GA. (ESPN)—Michigan State over Pittsburgh.

Las Vegas Bowl—9:30 p.m. Thursday at Las Vegas, NV. (ESPN)—Wisconsin over Arizona State.

Gator Bowl—10 a.m. Friday at Jacksonville, FL. (ESPN)—Wake Forest over Rutgers.

Arizona Bowl—1 p.m. Friday at Tucson AZ. (Barstool)—Boise State over Central Michigan.

Cotton Bowl- (CFP semi-final)—2:30 p.m. Friday at Arlington (ESPN)—Alabama over Cincinnati.

Orange Bowl- (CFP semi-final)—6:30 p.m. Friday at Miami Gardens, FL. (ESPN)—Georgia over Michigan.

Outback Bowl—11 a.m. Saturday at Tampa, FL. (ESPN2)—Penn State over Arkansas.

Citrus Bowl—Noon Saturday at Orlando, FL. (ABC)—Kentucky over Iowa.

Fiesta Bowl—Noon Saturday at Glendale AZ. (ESPN)—Notre Dame over Oklahoma State.

Rose Bowl —4 p.m. Saturday at Pasadena, CA.

Saturday at New Orleans, La. (ESPN)—Baylor over Ole Miss.

Texas Bowl—8 p.m. Tuesday at Houston, TX. (ESPN)—LSU over Kansas State (Upset Special).

PRO PICKS--

San Francisco over Houston, Buffalo over Atlanta, Chicago over NY Giants, Cincinnati over Kansas City (Upset Special), Tennessee over Miami, Indianapolis over Las Vegas, New England over Jacksonville, New Or-

leans over Carolina, Tampa Bay over NY Jets, Philadelphia over Washington, LA Chargers over Denver, Dallas over Arizona, Seattle over Detroit, LA Rams over Baltimore, Green Bay over Minnesota (all Sunday); Cleveland over Pittsburgh (Monday Night).



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Realistic Goals: Keeping those New Year's resolutions



Losing weight and getting more exercise are the top two New Year's resolutions.

Paul Schattenberg
Texas A&M AgriLife
Correspondent

Setting realistic goals and expectations and being emotionally ready to change are essential to keeping New Year's resolutions, said a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

"Three reasons why keeping resolutions fail are that they are unreasonable, the person expects an unrealistic benefit, or the person simply wasn't prepared to make the change," said Jenna Anding, Ph.D., RDN, AgriLife Extension nutrition specialist, Bryan-College Station.

Anding said most adults tend to shy away from resolutions, and those who take up the challenge for the upcoming year are more likely to be younger or middle-aged.

"Statistics also suggest older adults who do make resolutions are not very successful at keeping them," she noted. "But that's not to say resolutions don't work. In fact, those who make resolutions tend to have more success at halting bad habits and adopting good habits compared to those who don't make resolutions."

Some of the top New Year's resolutions include:

- Eating healthier/losing weight.
- Getting more exercise.
- Spending less/saving more.
- Being more organized.
- Dedicating more time with friends and family.
- Finding more "me" time.
- Quitting smoking or drinking.

Zeroing in on your resolution

Anding said one way to approach successful resolu-



Staying active and staying hydrated are important to any weight and fitness resolutions.

tion-making is for people to first list the three behaviors or habits they most want to change.

"Such behaviors could be eating better, getting more exercise, saving more money or working on personal relationships," she said. "Look at the behaviors you have identified and choose the one you most want to concentrate on improving. Then take a close and realistic look at the behavior you have chosen and think of a specific goal that would reflect where you would like to be through modifying that behavior. Write down that final goal, making sure it is both realistic and achievable."

The next step is to make a plan and come up with a series of smaller, attainable goals leading toward the final goal, she said.

"For example, if the goal is to run a marathon, but right now you can't run to the end of the block, consider starting with a more realistic goal of walking for 30 minutes a day three to five days a week. Once that is a regular habit, set another goal to run a 5K within three to six months

or power walking on a sidewalk in a residential neighborhood, talking and laughing.

However, Anding said, people should write down and commit to a specific date to begin their desired behavior change.

"Pick an important, significant or memorable date and put it on your calendar," she said. "It doesn't have to be the exact start of a new year. Once you pick your date, plan how you will accomplish your goal. In other words, identify and write down those specific actions you will need to take to be successful."

Anding said there will in-

variably be challenges on the journey toward meeting both smaller goals and your ultimate goal.

"It's important to think ahead, be flexible and have a contingency plan to deal with whatever obstacles may present themselves as you strive toward meeting that final goal."

Involve others and reward yourself

Anding said it is also a good idea to share your resolution with friends or family and ask for their support.

"List the names of people you want to know about your resolution, and ask for their

encouragement and help," she said. "It's easier to keep your resolution if you have others supporting you, plus involving others makes you more accountable."

Finally, Anding said, those who meet their set goals toward reaching their New Year's resolution should find ways to reward themselves for their progress.

"Do something nice for yourself like treat yourself to some music or read a good book," she said. "Or you can indulge in a guilty pleasure so long as it doesn't sabotage your efforts. It's also fine to share your successes with others as a means of self-validation."

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Seeking The Illusive Anti-mosquito Molecule

AgriLife Research takes novel approach to protect from bites, disease



The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito is a known carrier of diseases that pose a threat to humans. (Texas A&M AgriLife photo by Gabriel Hamer)

Adam Russell
Texas A&M AgriLife
Correspondent

Texas A&M AgriLife Research scientists are on a mission to create a new weapon against disease-carrying mosquitoes.

Patricia Pietrantonio, Ph.D., a Texas A&M AgriLife Research Fellow and professor in the Department of Entomology in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, is leading a three-year project toward a new method of mosquito control. The project will focus on *Aedes aegypti* and *Culex quinquefasciatus* species, which occur in Texas and around the globe.

The team aims to identify molecules that can protect deployed U.S. armed forces

members from mosquito bites and vector-borne diseases like Zika fever, yellow fever, Dengue fever and West Nile. A \$672,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense, DOD, is funding the study.

Most mosquito control utilizes pyrethroid-based products or malathion, an organophosphate, Pietrantonio said, but the DOD is looking for insecticides with new modes of action because the disease-carrying insects are developing resistance to those insecticides.

Female mosquitoes, especially in known disease-vector species, bite to feed on blood, which is necessary for egg production, she said. The study is based on established research but focuses on a novel approach relating to receptors in mosquito mouth parts, legs and internal organs.

"We really don't know what will happen at this point, but this is of interest because our research is investigating a novel mode of action for mosquito control," she said. "This is a completely different approach that will be a multidisciplinary effort with many different players."

Toxic molecule provides potential against mosquito bites

Pietrantonio said AgriLife Research scientists and graduate students will be a part of the project in collaboration with the laboratory of James Sacchettini, Ph.D., the Rodger J. Wolfe-Welch Foundation Chair and pro-

ANTL-MOSQUITO Page 5B

Kaz's Korner From Page 1B

Chronicle that rates each position of every game gave out only one B, with the rest of the grades being A's or A-pluses.

For the first time in his brief career, quarterback Davis Mills had a running game to complement his passing (21 of 27 for 254 yards and two touchdowns with zero interceptions). Houston led just 17-15 but then erupted for 24 points in the fourth quarter to seal the deal and probably bounced the Chargers out of a possible playoff spot.

But the Texans upset victory didn't impress the Las Vegas Boys whose early line on Sunday's game at San Francisco had the 49ers as a whopping 15-point favorite.

The biggest problem I see for this game is which players are going to be sent back to the practice squad as the COVID-19 players return healthy and ready to play. It's not a bad problem to have.

Teams that have already won their division championships include the Dallas Cowboys, Kansas City Chiefs, Green Bay Packers and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. But those four teams will be playing hard this week and next week to get that first-round bye that goes to the team with the best record in each conference and also gets the home field for the entire playoffs.

The Los Angeles Rams and the Arizona Cardinals have both made the playoffs and are competing for the NFC West Division championship.

Cincinnati and Baltimore are battling for the division championship in the AFC North title while Buffalo and New England are deadlocked for first place in the AFC East Division.

Jacksonville, New York Jets, Carolina, Chicago, Detroit and the New York Giants join the Houston Texans as teams eliminated from the playoffs, with the remainder of the teams still hoping to make the playoffs as a wild card.

KWICKIES...

The Dallas Cowboys continue to play bet-

ter and better as the NFL regular season enters its final two weeks of play. They completely brutalized the Washington Redskins Sunday night 56-14 to clinch the NFC East Division title. It was their largest win since 1980. The Pokes will have a tough time hosting the faltering Arizona Cardinals Sunday at Jerry's Palace in Arlington and should find out just how good they might be.

Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes is 22-0 during his career in the months of November and December. The last loss the Chiefs suffered with Mahomes at quarterback during these two months was in November 2019 when the Tennessee Titans blocked a game-winning attempt of a field goal and won the game.

Two bowl games—the Fenway Bowl and the Military Bowl—have been canceled due to COVID-19 with Friday's Sun Bowl in jeopardy. Washington State still had no opponent at this writing after Miami couldn't field a competitive team due to COVID-19 for the El Paso event.

Cincinnati's second-year quarterback Joe Burrow threw for 525 yards (the fourth most in NFL history) as the Bengals ripped Baltimore 41-21 and took over first place in the AFC North Sunday. The former LSU star threw four touchdown strikes in the victory.

Nevada, which played Western Michigan in the Quick Lane Bowl Monday, has a quarterback (Dave Cox) who stands at 6 foot 9 inches tall.

JUST BETWEEN US...

When the Buffalo Bills upset New England 33-21 Sunday, they became the first team to beat the Patriots at home in consecutive seasons since the Indianapolis Colts turned the trick in 2005-06. The Pats are now 3-5 at Foxborough, their first season with a losing record at home since 2000. I still think Bill Belichick will find a way to get his team into the upcoming playoffs.

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Entertainment Guide: Concert venues for 2022



The rock band Night Ranger (pictured) is one of many new shows recently announced for 2022 at the Golden Nugget Casino in Lake Charles, La. Along with Night Ranger, other shows include Gary Clark Jr. and Candlebox.
RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.

**TOMMY MANN JR.
FOR THE RECORD**

The amount of national artists performing in Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana for the rest of the month is amazing, and the quality of those acts is equally impressive. Take a look at the list below to schedule some weekend fun in 2022.

- Jan. 7, 2022 Maddie and Tae, House of Blues, Houston
- Jan. 14, 2022 Dean Dillon, The Oaks Event Center, Vidor
- Jan. 15, 2022 Keith Sweat, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- Jan. 21, 2022 The Oak Ridge Boys, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- Jan. 21, 2022 Elton John, Toyota Center, Houston
- Jan. 22, 2022 Elton John, Toyota Center, Houston
- Jan. 28, 2022 Michael Bolton, Golden Nugget Casino, Lake Charles, La.
- Jan. 29, 2022 JoJo Siwa, Toyota Center, Houston
- Feb. 4, 2022 Tool, Blonde Redhead, Toyota Center, Houston
- Feb. 8, 2022 Steve Vai, House of Blues, Houston
- Feb. 10, 2022 Travis Tritt: Solo Acoustic, Jefferson Theatre, Beaumont

Uzzle Outdoors From Page 1B

duced to fishing and wanted to pursue it as much and as soon as possible. My friend knew very little about the sport but wanted to give his son every opportunity to enjoy it so he did the next best thing by seeking out professional help. The goal was simple, take the young man out, catch a few fish, and teach him some basics that will enable him to not only learn about the sport but get better at the same time. I'm not sure who was more excited the day of the trip, the boy, his dad, or myself.

Our day started off with perfect conditions, flat calm and crisp temperatures, we could not have asked for any better situation. The bonus for me was the entire family decided to come along, both parents and 3 youngsters (2 boys and 1 girl) aged 8, 5, and 4. Even though it takes some extra patience to deal with the youngsters I generally enjoy each opportunity to take kids fishing and this would be no exception. After getting everybody squared away with life jackets and basic safety rules we made a run out into the lake to look

for working birds and schooling trout. It took us a few stops to finally figure out what was going on but eventually we figured it out. It was perfect as each child ended up with an adult being able to supervise them. The pattern for the trip was spinning rods and rattling corks with soft plastics tied beneath them, a combo the small trout and sand trout found irresistible. The first fish for each child was met with great excitement by all in attendance.

Easily the highlight of the day came towards the end of the afternoon as hefty 28 inch redfish obliterated the popping cork and proceeded to make a rather long run before deciding to really put up a fight. At this point each of the kids took turns battling the redfish while the others cheered enthusiastically. The first glimpse of the fish next to the boat in the clear water was met with gasps of excitement and general wonder. After we finally subdued the fish and lid it into the net you would've thought we had just won the World Series as the celebration ensued. I was

as happy for them as they were to catch such a great fish. The genuine excitement and wonder on all their faces was priceless and I was certainly proud to be a part of it all. After a lengthy photo session where all the kids posed with "their" trophy we headed north and called it day. As the family drove off I could see the smiles on all the kids faces as well the looks on each parents face as they had just made a memory the whole family would enjoy for years to come. I was extremely proud to have been a part of that.

- Feb. 16, 2022 Kansas, Jefferson Theatre, Beaumont
- Feb. 16, 2022 Bad Bunny, Toyota Center, Houston
- Feb. 17, 2022 Bad Bunny, Toyota Center, Houston
- Feb. 25, 2022 Ghost, Volbeat, Smart Financial Center, Sugar Land

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Texas Game Warden Memorial is Moving to a New Home



Since 2012, the Game Warden Peace Officer's Association has been working to relocate the memorial from the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens to the grounds of the Texas State Capitol.

Staff Report For The Record

AUSTIN— Since 2012, the Game Warden Peace Officer's Association has been working to relocate the memorial from the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens to the grounds of the Texas State Capitol. The life-size bronze figure of a Texas Game Warden stands to honor the wardens that lost their lives in the line of duty

and serves as a reminder of the enduring legacy of the Texas Game Wardens.

"The Association saw this as a necessary move since other memorials—specifically peace officer memorials—are housed on the grounds of the Texas State Capitol," said Game Warden Peace Officer Association President and current Texas Game Warden Major, Quint Balkcom. "Housing the memorial on Capitol grounds

would also serve a larger audience, many who have never interacted with a Texas Game Warden. This is an educational opportunity to learn more about our history and our critical conservation efforts."

When the Game Warden Peace Officer's Association took the reins of this project, they also facilitated the necessary funding and legislative efforts required for relocation. After multiple attempts, a 2017 resolution in support of the project passed through both chambers of the Texas legislature. Last

week's hearing of the State Preservation Board cleared logistical hurdles that had stalled relocation.

"This is an incredible step in the right direction," said Colonel Chad Jones, Director of Law Enforcement for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "The fallen wardens this memorial honors aren't just the wardens of the past. Some of them were my friends and colleagues. Placing the memorial at the Capitol ensures their sacrifices will be remembered daily by the leaders, residents, and visitors to this

state."

Despite overcoming monumental hurdles, the memorial still faces an uphill battle to its final home.

"Now that the project has received final approval from the State Preservation Board, we have moved into the planning phase of relocation which will be a lengthy process as well," said Balkcom. "Ordering the granite for a new pedestal and physically moving the memorial takes months to plan and perform, but I am thrilled the project is one step closer to its new home and honoring our fall-

en family the way it was intended."

Balkcom added that an updated sculpture will be replacing the memorial in Athens in the future.

As the state's only conservation law enforcement agency, Texas Game Wardens patrol its vast network of waterways, respond to natural disasters and oversee hunting and fishing regulations. Through the agency's 125 year history, 19 Texas Game Wardens have lost their lives while serving the people of Texas.

Anti-mosquito molecule

From Page 1

fessor in the Department of Biochemistry and Biophysics, and collaborators in the Department of Chemistry at Texas A&M and in Portugal.

The project aims to test small synthetic molecules that may be used to create a compound toxic to mosquitoes. Pietrantonio and her team have screened more than 20,000 molecules and discovered several that could potentially inhibit bites, modify mosquito behavior or kill the insects.

The project will test those molecules' impact on female mosquitoes. To test efficacy, the team will offer the chemicals to mosquitoes in a feeding mix of blood or will apply them directly to the insect.

Pietrantonio hypothesizes that a successful chemical will prevent bites by disrupting mosquitoes' sensory signals. In prior testing, the team conducted a high-throughput screen of chemical libraries owned by AgriLife Research. From that screen, three molecules ended up causing paralysis of the hindgut in female *Aedes aegypti* mosquitoes, which are known carriers of yellow fever and other diseases.

Those molecules and others will be tested further with the goal of producing a protective compound.

"Right now, we are trying to see if the synthetic molecules chosen that have drug-like characteristics will affect the mosquitoes," she said. "Whether they interrupt feeding or lead to paralysis or death, we want to determine how they might impact the insect and prevent bites."

DAR meetings third Tuesday

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, bloodline 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

Dementia Care Givers' Support Group

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



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 20 HYUNDAI
 OWED \$775.95
 Vin#3AKJH8R8LSLR4402
 20 FREIGHTLINER
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 Vin#BURNT/LP 1834769
 UNKNOWN GMC
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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **GEROLD LYNN PEDEN, SR., a/k/a GERALD LYNN PEDEN SR.,** Deceased, were issued on **OCTOBER 26, 2021, in Cause No. P19150,** pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Juanell Peden.**

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: **Juanell Peden**
 145 E. Lindberg
 Vidor, TX
 77662
Dated:
December 20, 2021

Juanell Peden
 145 E. Lindberg
 Vidor, TX
 77662

FOOD & DRINK

ACROSS

1. *Lettuce variety
5. Drivel
8. *CafÉ alternative
11. *Cantina cooker
12. *Waldorf salad ingredient
13. Animal trail
15. Radio knob
16. Hurry up, acr.
17. One who accepts the offer
18. *Anise-flavored spirit
20. *Happily ____ after"
21. Operatic solos
22. ____ Air in L.A.
23. Hairy vertebrate
26. Freed
30. In the past
31. Small type of drum
34. *Wine in Italy
35. Charleston, e.g.
37. Chow down
38. a.k.a. honey badger
39. Wet nurse
40. HervÉ Villechaize on "Fantasy Island"
42. Expression of doubt
43. Founding Father
45. City in Japan
47. Shock and ____
48. Jawaharlal's last name
50. *Driest type of sherry
52. *a.k.a. black trea-

55. Softly-softly, loris' cousin
56. A Flock of Seagulls' 1982 hit (2 words)
57. *Cabbage amount
59. Alexandre Dumas' "The Black ____"
60. What seekers do
61. Consequently
62. Everything
63. Temporary craze
64. Swedish shag rugs

DOWN

1. Physique, informal-ly
2. Pelvic bones
3. Spill the beans
4. Certain fir
5. *Fusilli or ziti
6. Same as #39 Across, pl.
7. Supreme pontiff
8. Puff
9. Field worker
10. Be off base
12. Capital of Philippines
13. Be at the helm
14. *Ballerina-inspired dessert
19. All worked up
22. *Granola serving
23. TÈa Leoni's " ____ Secretary"
24. Old World lizard
25. Unicellular organism
26. Stroke on a green
27. Lithograph, for short

CROSSWORD										
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28. Japan to U.S. in WWII
 29. *Stuffed grapevine leaf
 32. *Flageolet or azuki cereal
 36. *Type of #34 Across
 38. Lion sounds
 40. One little piggy?
 41. Easily available (2 words)
 44. One clean one?
 46. *Betty Crocker fruit snack
 48. Waterwheel
 49. Serengeti grazer
 50. Unplayable baseball
 51. It will, contraction
 52. Irk
 53. Like a ghost
 54. Long novel
 55. School support org.
 58. Opposite of don'ts

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OLLAMA YOSPOR
DIAL ASAP TAKER
ABSINTHE EVER
ARIAS BEL
MAMMAL PAROLED
AGO TABOU VINO
DANCE EAT RATEL
AMAH TATTOO HMM
MADISON NAGOYA
AW NEHRU
FINO MOLASSES
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