

County Record

Vol. 65 No. 31

Distributed FREE in Orange County, Texas

Week of Wednesday, January 1, 2025

County gets new D.A., sheriff on Wednesday

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Krispen Walker, Bobby Smith, Rodney Townsend, and Joey Jacobs will become new county officials on January 1 when they take their oaths of office.

In addition, several incumbent officials will take oaths for new terms. All the local officials ran as unopposed Republicans in the November general election.

The public is invited to join with the officials' friends and families to witness each person getting a new term take the oath. The ceremony will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday, January 1, in the 128th State District Courtroom

on the second floor of the three-story 1930s courthouse.

Because of architectural problems at the front of the courthouse, entrance is through the back doors by the parking lot.

Walker will become the county's first woman district attorney to replace John Kimbrough, who retired. She grew up in Orange and has served as an assistant district attorney for many years.

Smith will become the new county sheriff. He lives in the Vidor area, has a long career in law enforcement, and is a retired officer with the Texas Rangers. He beat incumbent Jimmy Lane Mooney and two other candidates

in the primary race.

Townsend, who is from Bridge City, has had a local private practice law firm. He will become county court-at-law judge after the retirement of Troy Johnson.

Jacobs, who is from the Vidor area, has a long career in law enforcement and has been a captain with the OC Sheriff's Office. He will take the oath as Precinct 4 constable after winning the primary

race against incumbent Matt Ortego.

Octavia Guzman will take the oath for her first four-year term as county tax assessor-collector. Karen Fisher, who previously held the position,

retired early and Guzman began serving as the official this past summer.

Incumbents re-elected and starting new four-year terms are Precinct 1

NEW Page 2A

County, Bridge City see strong 2024 sales tax funds

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Sales tax payments to the cities, Orange County, and one special district left the county and Bridge City with year-end increases from 2023, however, the city of Orange was down \$2 million in sales tax revenues.

Orange County collected \$520,000 more during the calendar year, with Bridge City getting \$160,000 more. The city of West Orange had \$25,000 more, while Pinehurst collected \$42,500 more for the year. Vidor received \$30,000 more for the year. Orange County Emergency Services District 3, the only special district in the county with a sales tax, was almost stagnant.

The Texas Comptroller's Office sent the entities their returns from October earlier in December.

Orange County has a half-percent sales tax, or

half a penny per dollar. In December, the county received \$785,440, up from \$521,428 for the same month in 2023. The county ended the year with \$8.52 million, up from \$8 million last year, an increase of 6.5 percent.

Bridge City has a 1.5 percent sales tax, or 1.5 pennies for every dollar. The city in December got \$188,605, up \$166,276 from the same month last year. The city had a 7.33 percent increase for this year with \$2.4 million, compared to \$2.24 million last year.

Orange also has a 1.5 percent sales tax and collected \$7.36 million for the calendar year, compared to \$9.33 million for 2023, which is a decrease of 21.12 percent. The drop could have been worse except for strong October sales. For the month, the city collected \$545,390,

SALES TAX Page 2A



Kevin and Jenni Bryant offer customers a different experience at the Hammered Honey Mead tasting room in Orangefield. RECORD PHOTO: Penny Leleux

"Nectar of the gods" found hidden away in Orangefield

PENNY LELEUX
For The Record

Another hidden treasure has been found tucked away in Orangefield. Kevin and Jenni Bryant have been offering tastings of mead aka "nectar of the gods" in the Oilla Community of Orangefield for two years. Mead is the oldest known fermented product on the planet and predates wine by several thousand years. According to Bryant, it began in China and Africa, was later romanticized by the Greeks and the Vikings.

The Hammered Honey Farms and Mead tasting room is located at 2801 Linscomb Rd., Orange, TX

77630.

"We are a veteran owned, family run and operated, small business," said Keven Bryant. They only use honey, water, yeast and fresh fruit in their meads and as much as possible is sourced locally. "Our honey comes from about six miles down the road. It's our signature honey. That's the only honey we use." They use raw, unprocessed, unpasteurized honey. Bryant says raw honey still has all the healthy enzymes.

"I'm very partial to not using chemicals that I don't have to. I'm very adamant about the fact that we don't get fruit that has herbicides, pesticides, insecticides or anything like that."

He started making mead several years ago as a camaraderie/team building event for some of his "joes," his soldiers.

"I did 18 years in the army, this was a way for us to come together, making alcohol together. Of course we drank it. When we started it was rocket fuel... It was really rough stuff, but through years and years of making it, now our recipes have become much more refined."

They now have 39 recipes and typically have around 20 available. Typically, it is just honey, water and yeast and whenever you want to flavor it, you put in either fresh

NECTAR OF THE Page 3A

Texas Labor Market Continues to Expand

Civilian Labor Force Exceeds 155 Million

STAFF REPORT
For The Record

AUSTIN Texas' civilian labor force achieved another new record high in November. In addition, Texas' seasonally adjusted total nonfarm employment increased to 14,286,700 after 9,100 jobs were added over the month. Texas added 274,300 jobs from November

2023 to November 2024. Texas' annual nonfarm growth rate reached 2.0 percent, outpacing the U.S. growth rate by 0.6 percentage points.

In November, Texas' seasonally adjusted civilian labor force achieved a new record high of 15,536,100 after adding 39,100 people over the month. This marks the eleventh consecutive

month of growth for Texas' civilian labor force. Over the year, Texas' civilian labor force has added 403,200 people.

The seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose a tenth of a point to 4.2 percent over the month.

"After another month of job growth, the Texas labor force participation rate has reached a 10-year high, at 64.7 percent," said

TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. "This positive trend shows the strength of the Texas workforce, its employers, and its job seekers."

The Private Education and Health Services industry had the largest over-the-month increase in November after adding 5,900 jobs. In addition, Government added 3,500 jobs over the month and Financial Activities added 3,000. Financial Activities grew by 3.4 percent over

the year in Texas and outperformed the industry's growth rate nationally by 2.8 percentage points.

"Texas continues to outpace the national employment growth rate, indicating that the Lone Star State is still the best place to live and work," said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Alberto Treviño III. "There are more than half a million job postings online, and TWC is dedicated to connecting Texans with new

career opportunities."

The Midland Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) had the lowest unemployment rate among Texas MSAs with a not seasonally adjusted rate of 2.8 percent in November, followed by the Amarillo MSA at 3.1 percent and the College Station-Bryan MSA at 3.2 percent.

"Employers continue to choose Texas because of

TEXAS Page 2A

SANTA'S JANUARY TO-DO LIST

Bridge City • Lumberton • Orange

Member FDIC

BridgeCityBank.com

1. Binge watch "Yellowstone"
2. Replace reindeer with drones
3. Anniversary gift for Mrs. Claus
4. Vacation in Aruba
5. Switch Accts. to Bridge City Bank

The 'Life and Times of the Temptations' at the Lutch Theater

Staff Report For The Record

The Lutch Theater announces the electrifying Broadway musical "Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of The Temptations" will take the stage for two performances on Jan. 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. This smash-hit musical, nominated for 12 Tony® Awards and winner of the 2019 Tony Award for Best Choreography, brings the extraordinary story of The Temptations to life.

Set to the beat of the

group's treasured hits, including "My Girl," "Just My Imagination," "Get Ready," and "Papa Was a Rolling Stone," "Ain't Too Proud" follows The Temptations' extraordinary journey from the streets of Detroit to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Audiences will experience the thrilling story of brotherhood, family, loyalty and betrayal during a decade of civil unrest in America, all set against a soundtrack of timeless hits that defined a generation.

"We are beyond excited

to bring 'Ain't Too Proud' to the Lutch Theater stage," said Lynae Sanford, executive director of the Lutch Theater. "This show is not only a celebration of incredible music and choreography, but also a powerful story of perseverance and brotherhood that will resonate with our audiences. It's a can't-miss experience!"

Hailed by Billboard Magazine as the "greatest R&B group of all time," The Temptations' legacy is celebrated in this unforgettable

theatrical experience that combines stunning choreography, powerful storytelling and a soundtrack that continues to inspire music lovers across the globe.

Get ready for an unforgettable night of music and inspiration! Tickets for "Ain't Too Proud – The Life and Times of The Temptations" range in price from \$40 to \$95 and are available at lutch.org or by calling the Lutch Theater Box Office at 409.886.5535. Don't miss your chance to



witness this inspiring production that has taken Broadway by storm!

The Lutch Theater is located at 707 Main Avenue in downtown Orange, TX.

Public offices close for New Year's, garbage delayed

The Orange County Courthouse, along with city halls, plus federal and state offices will be closed Wednesday for New Year's Day. All emergency services like police and fire will operate as usual.

Though the county courthouse offices are closed, the main courthouse will be open to allow officials to take part in the oath of office ceremony at

10 a.m. in the 128th District courtroom.

Garbage pickups will not be made on Wednesday in any of the cities.

The cities of Bridge City, Orange, and West Orange will have delayed garbage pickups after Wednesday. Pinehurst has garbage service on Tuesdays and will not be affected.

For Bridge City and Orange, regular Wednesday

garbage pickups will be on Thursday, Thursday's pickups on Friday, and Friday's pickups on Saturday. West Orange will have Saturday pickup instead of Friday.

On Monday, Waste Management announced that some of the Orange customers from after Christmas did not have pickup because of broken equipment and then the severe storm that blew through the re-

gion on Saturday. The company was working on Monday to catch up with missed routes.

Public schools have been closed for the Christmas-New Year holidays. Students at Bridge City, Little Cypress-Mauriceville, and West Orange-Cove districts will return to classes on Tuesday, January 7. Orangefield students go back on Wednesday, January 8.

Sales tax funds From Page 1

compared to \$440,000 for the same month last year.

City Manager Mike Kuntz said the city's 2024-25 fiscal year budget was cut because of the decrease in sales taxes and a decrease in property taxes because of plant closings.

Pinehurst had strong sales after seeing decreases in sales tax income during

recent years. The city ended up with \$708,000 for the year, compared to \$665,500 last year, a 6.4 percent increase. In December, the city got \$54,470, up from \$52,445 for the same month last year. The city has a 1.5 percent sales tax.

Vidor also has a 1.5 percent sales tax and collected \$3.8 million for the year, up

slightly from \$3.77 million last year. The city's monthly payment was for \$289,000, compared to \$274,430 last year.

West Orange got \$1.7 million for the calendar year, up from \$1.45 million, an increase of 15.74 percent. The city received \$168,300 in December, an increase from \$110,227 last

year. The city has a 1.5 percent sales tax.

Emergency Services District 3 for the Little Cypress Fire and Rescue Department, has a 1.5 percent sales tax. The district got \$31,442 in December for a the year's total of \$337,160, down slightly from \$339,735 last year.

Texas Labor Market expands From Page 1

our dynamic business environment, talented workforce, and strong community partnerships," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Joe Esparza. "TWC is here to support both individuals seeking to grow their ca-

reers and employers looking to strengthen their teams, ensuring Texas remains a leader in workforce excellence."

Employment estimates released by TWC are produced in cooperation with the U.S. Department of La-

bor's Bureau of Labor Statistics. *All estimates are subject to revision. To access this and more employment data, visit TexasLMI.com.

The Texas Labor Market Information Data for December is scheduled to be

released on Friday, January 24, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. (CT).

TexasLMI.com is an interactive website hosted by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) that disseminates Texas labor market statistics,

New County Officials From Page 1

County Commissioner Johnny Trahan and Precinct 3 Commissioner Kirk Roccaforte. Also, constables Lannie Claybar for Precinct 1, Jeremiah Gunter for Precinct 2, and Brad Frye

for Precinct 3. State judges starting new terms are 128th District Judge Courtney Arkeen and 163rd District Judge Rex Peveto.

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.

Roy Dunn - Publisher
Margaret Toal - News Director
Mark Dunn - Production
Dan Perrine - Sports Editor
Janelle Sehon - Business Manager

409-886-7183
or 409-313-6611

E-mail: news@therecordlive.com
 333 W. Roundbunch, Bridge City, Texas 77611

Offices Closed On Wednesday.
 Didn't Get Your Paper? Call 409-313-6611

TheRecordLive.com

Round The Clock Hometown News

SAY HELLO

to the next BIG thing in better hearing!

Everyone wants to hear their friends, family and the world. But not everyone is comfortable advertising their hearing loss. We're here to help!

Nothing is Smaller. Nothing Sounds Better.

Virtually Invisible • Transparent Sound • Convenient Rechargeability • Custom Fit for You

LIMITED TIME ONLY!

FREE Hearing Screening:

- Ear examination - is it hearing loss or ear wax?
- Preview the latest hearing technology.

ADDITIONAL
MODELS &
TREATMENT
PLANS

AS LOW AS
\$795
PER EAR*

WATERPROOF UP TO 1 METER. RECHARGEABLE STYLES ONLY. WE ACCEPT MOST MAJOR INSURANCES. ASK ABOUT OUR SPECIAL NO INTEREST FINANCING AND AFFORDABILITY OPTIONS WE OFFER MULTIPLE REASONABLY PRICED BRANDS! CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH ANY OTHER OFFERS. NOT VALID ON PREVIOUS PURCHASES. TREATMENT PLANS DEPENDENT UPON HEARING LOSS NEEDS.

Beaumont • Nederland • Orange

6656 Phelan Blvd. 2190 HWY 365 105 Camellia Ave

(888) 464-8896

JANUARY 6th-10th | 9AM-5PM

Nectar of the gods found From Page 1

fruits or fresh spices.

“Here at Hammer Honey, we only use fresh fruit. We don’t use any artificial colors, flavors, dyes, or artificial sweeteners; nothing of that nature. I’m just about the only alcohol manufacturer that I know that says that I will bet the business that no matter how much of my product you drink, you’ll never have a headache or hang-over.” He credits the use of all natural ingredients that prevent headaches.

Besides his wife, only two other people participate in the business: his son Kade and daughter, Abby.

“We pick the fruit ourselves whenever we can. Some of the fruit we grow on our own, but again if we can get it local that’s what we do. We get our peaches from the orchards in Fredericksburg, watermelons from Sugar Town, blueberries from Brown’s Berry Farm in Kirbyville. We’re very adamant about getting as much local fruit as we can. That way we get a great product and it’s nice to help the local economy.”

For years, people asked to buy the mead, but since that would be illegal, he gave it away. People finally convinced him to open a brick-and-mortar location. He started working on the licensing in 2019, then COVID shut everything down.

“We didn’t get our full licensure between federal and state until December 1st of 2022 so we just had our second-year anniversary,” said Bryant. He said the local community has been good to him, but it has not been good to many.

“We’ve lost seven alcoholic establishments in Southeast Texas in the past two years, the latest being Neches Brewing Company in Groves. They’re closing on December 31st so we’re just hoping that we’re not gonna be one of those.” Bryant said, “Thank goodness we own the building and we don’t have any overhead with employees. That’s what’s keeping us open at the moment. The alcohol industry has not been kind to Southeast Texas recently.” Other casualties local-



They now have 39 recipes and typically have around 20 available. Typically, it is just honey, water and yeast and whenever you want to flavor it, you put in either fresh fruits or fresh spices. RECORD PHOTO: Penny Leleux

ly include Clifford Distilling, Pour Brothers, Cotton Creek Winery and Hop Avenue.

When the tasting room first opened, they didn’t advertise a lot because they kept selling out.

“We would open and then we’d be open for 2-3 months and sell out completely and then we’d be closed for a month and a half to two months, waiting for our new batches to come,” he said. “It takes six months for everything we do. It’s a minimum of six months aging process so time is the most expensive thing that we have to deal with. It’s a really good product.”

The Bryants are both of Scandinavian heritage so they decided to go with a Viking theme for the tasting room.

“It started with the logo,” said Kevin Bryant. “Mjolnir (Thor’s hammer), then in the center of it has what’s called a vlknut. It’s three triangles that are intertwined. A valknut represents fallen warriors and that’s real important to me, two percent of all our gross sales, including tips, goes directly to TAPS which is the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors. It’s basically Gold Star families who have lost service members in combat.”

All the meads are named after either Aesir or Vanir gods and goddesses which are in the Norse myths and legends.

Their apple spice mead is named Idun, the goddess of fertility and health. She’s known to carry a basket of apples. It is Jenni’s personal favorite. Skadi is known as the goddess of hunting and frost. They gave her name to the blueberry flavor, because blueberries frequently have a white film on them that looks like an early morning frost.

“We really try to match the names with things that would make sense,” said Kevin.

Their number one seller is Bifrost, a three-berry mixture of strawberry, blueberry and blackberry. Bifrost is the rainbow bridge between the nine realms of the Norse Pantheon. Kevin’s overall favorite is Loki, named for the god of mischief. It is a ginger-lime combo. Their traditional mead is named Odin, the king of the gods. They even have one made with coffee named Mimir.

They offer tastings in a variety of ways. Their “Fairing Flight,” which is a choice of four meads is \$15 per person, while the “Longship” offers six flavors of \$20 per person, the “Whole Fjord” is 10 fla-

by volume.

“We block plenty of time and we’ve got time wasters,” said Bryant. They have card and board games, giant Jenga and Karaoke to spread it out. You also get a history of mead and an education about how Hammered Honey mead differs from other meads.

The tastings are by reservation only. They offer tastings Thursday and Friday, 5-8 p.m., Saturday, tastings can be scheduled 10 a.m.- 8 p.m. and on Sundays, they offer reservations between noon and 5 p.m.

Bottle sales are available anytime during the week they are available, but you do need to call first for an appointment for bottle sales as well. Currently bottle sales are \$32. Bryant said bottle sales may increase to \$34 in the next couple of weeks due to the rising cost of supplies.

“The bottles that we’re putting everything in have really gone up, as well as the corks and labels,” he said. “Everything’s more expensive.”

Mark Walles, who lives in the Oilla Community stopped by earlier in the week and purchased a few bottles to share on Christmas with his family.

“Three bottles gone by lunch. It was good, everybody enjoyed it. The wine people enjoyed it and the beer people enjoy it,” he said. Walles purchased

Njord (pineapple), Freya (Strawberry) and Loki (lime and ginger). He didn’t purchase the coffee, but he did taste it. “It was strong coffee,” he said. Walles said the family is interested in doing a wine mead and will schedule one in January for his birthday.

The Bryants also offer some pop-up special events. They partnered Saturday with War Wagon Cigar Lounge on State Hwy 87, in Mauriceville to offer their mead as part of War Wagon’s porker event.

They do also carry merchandise such as T-shirts, engraved mugs and drinking horns.

Now if you’re trying to find Hammered Honey Farms and Mead, maps will take you there, but you must make sure you are on the right of Linscomb Road, because Orange County has three. There is one in Vidor, one off 1442 north of Interstate 10, but the one you want is in Orangefield proper off Oilla Road. If you turn down Oilla from Farm to Market 105, you need to continue driving straight when Oilla turns left immediately after crossing the rice canal. You will then be on Linscomb Road. It is a little way down Linscomb on the right.

Call 409-313-2001 to reserve your tasting slot or to arrange bottle sales.

HERITAGE CENTER OF ORANGE, INC.
 100 S. College, Orange, TX
 (409) 886-3505
 Bus. Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 Fri. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. (closed Mon III 1 p.m. for Lunch)
 Equal Housing Opportunity
 Section 8 and HUD Subsidized
 1 OR 2 BEDROOMS

ENROLL TODAY
 FOR SPRING 2025 COURSES
 Online, On Campus, Hyflex
 Spring 8-Week I Begins:
 January 21, 2025

REGISTER ONLINE AT LSCO.EDU

Lamar State College
 — Orange —

Happy 2025

From Your Friends At

A-1 PETERSON PLUMBING



From the Creaux's Nest

STATE FUNERAL TO BE HELD FOR CARTER

James Earl Carter Jr., an American politician from Plains Georgia, served as the 39th president of the United States from 1977 to 1981. He was a member of the Democratic Party and had previously served in the Georgia State Senate from 1963 to 1967 and as the 76th governor of Georgia from 1971 to 1975. A state funeral for former President **Jimmy Carter** will be held on Jan. 9 in Washington, D.C., according to a presidential declaration by President **Biden**. **Biden** also said that day will be a **National Day of Mourning for Carter**, who died Sunday, Dec. 29, at the age of 100. "I call on the American people to assemble on that day in their respective places of worship, there to pay homage to the memory of President **James Earl Carter, Jr.**," **Biden** said in a statement. "I invite the people of the world who share our grief to join us in this solemn observance." President **Biden** declared that all American flags be flown at half-staff for 30 days at all federal buildings, military posts and naval stations, as well as on all naval vessels. Most of the federal government will be closed on Jan. 9 in observance of the day of mourning, the president said in a proclamation.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2015

The year comes to an end on an economical high note. Economists are optimistic about continued growth in 2015. The American economy is positioned to soar. The stock market is at an all-time high, the annual deficit is down a trillion dollars, and joblessness is down. Over ten million, Americans who didn't have health insurance before Obamacare now have it. Judge Janice Menard ends a 32 year career in the Justice of the Peace Pct. 3 office this week. She has been a good employee and a good judge. She is very knowledgeable, with more J.P. training than all other county justices. No one can find fault with the way she ran the court. Sometimes during a political campaign, things are said that at other times would be slanderous and should be taken tongue in cheek. Judge Menard refused to change parties, "Hypercritical" she said, so she was caught up in the straight party GOP voting. However, she did something never done before; she received 24.5 percent cross over voting. Along with Judge Carl Thibodeaux, I'll miss our buddy, Nelda's other half, Owen Burton, on the court. We very seldom disagreed, but it was fun when we did. Owen had to be talked into running for the last term so I bet he's glad to be getting out of Dodge. His seat will be taken by a younger man, his nephew Barry Burton. Karen Jo, oh how I'll miss that girl. For her 40 years in the County Clerk's office she's been my friend. I've often called on her for information and had it before I hung the phone up. Over the years, when my Happenings cupboard was bare, Karen Jo would get me out of a bind by being my court house source for local happenings. We had a mutual admiration, she's good, people and I wish her the very best retirement. She's earned it. Carl Thibodeaux, what can I say about the Judge that I haven't said before? I don't believe that citizens fully realize the scope of what was accomplished under his 20 years as county judge. It seems like every year he had a new court to work with. He found a way to work, even with those who were extreme and self-serving. Being a Cajun, he was often headstrong but he was a leader during good times and bad storms. He wanted to run again but wouldn't switch parties. He called it "Silly" in local politics. I don't believe ever again anyone will serve 20 years in that office. We wish the new County Judge, Brint Carlton, nothing but the best. Happy sailing. Thanks to Tib for his service but don't bet the farm that he will stay retired and inactive in county affairs. Janice, Karen Jo, Owen and Carl, all Democrats, served us well. Home for the holidays are Vicky Thompson, formerly of Bridge City, now a Dallas resident, was in town visiting with family for the holidays. Her sister and brother-in-law Kim and Tim McDonald, of Little Cypress, were excited to have her home. Port Director Gene Bouillon and family spent their Christmas holiday in the Cajun Country of Abbeville. His sister came from Houston and they all gathered at Shucks Seafood Restaurant for Christmas dinner. It don't get no better than that. If you are ever in that area you must dine at Shucks. Their specialty is oysters but everything Cajun is special. Judge Derry Dunn, Pct. 3 Justice of the Peace, has been pinch hitting for J.P. David Peck while he has been hospitalized. We understand that he has been transferred to Hospice Rehab and is much improved, but has a long way to go. Betty and Corky Harmon were the victims of an auto accident in Winnie over the weekend. A lady ran a stop sign and totaled their car. Their air bags didn't go off but fortunately they were wearing their seat belts so they came out with only belt bruises. We had a phone visit with our buddy Ray Cotton. He's been coasting lately. He sold most of the Cotton

Corner Complex to his daughter Tina. I believe he kept the bingo hall. Ray will do to ride the range with. On a sad note, we were sorry to hear that Brenda Sanders, a wonderful lady who worked in the deli at Danny's had a massive heart attack last Friday and is in critical condition in a Beaumont Hospital. She is the daughter of Sue Simar. Meanwhile, Tommy is recovering from knee surgery and can't be with Sue while she maintains vigilance at the hospital. The family is asking for your prayers during this very critical time. I hate that the Texans missed the playoffs. Collin Gros attended the Texan game and says J.J. Watt is something to watch in person. J.J. had three sacks, one in the end zone for two points and scored a touchdown. Congratulations to the West Orange-Stark Mustangs for not only a great season but for bringing all the communities together for one reason, pulling for our home team. There was something special about the 2014 Mustangs. Maybe it had to do with how they overcame misfortunes when star players were lost to injury, maybe it was the charm of a JV quarterback, with the name of Jack Dallas, who took over after the loss of two starting quarterbacks that captured so many fans. The Mustangs had every opportunity to win the game against Gilmer. The 35-25 loss doesn't reflect the excitement of the game. By the way, we are featuring The Records "All Orange County Team" this week. Most Valuable Player: Deionte Thompson, WO-S. Offensive MVP: Colby Choate, Orangefield. Defensive MVP: Octavis Crosson, WO-S. Offensive Newcomer: Jack Dallas, WO-S. Defensive Newcomer: Justin Brown, WO-S. Coach of the year: Cornel Thompson, WO-S. Offensive: Quarterback: Matthew Kress-Orangefield. Runningbacks: Grant LaPoint-Teate, WO-S, Robert Green, LC-M. Receivers: Will Johnson, WO-S, Trey Baldwin, WO-S, Blaine Slaughter, Bridge City, Reese Bromley, LC-M. Tight end: Mitchell Lee, LC-M, Nick Harvey, Orangefield. Center: Brandon Bray, Orangefield. Offensive linemen: Paul Hebert, WO-S, Jerrod Watkins, Orangefield, Ethan Reed, LC-M, Marvis Brown, LC-M. Kicker: Matthew Rainey, Orangefield. Kick Returner: Trey Spencer, WO-S. All-Orange County Defense: Mandel Turner-King, WO-S, Taylor Hulsey, LC-M, Jonathan Hebert, Orangefield, Paul Hebert, WO-S. Inside linebackers: Steven Tims, WOS, Austin Moore, Orangefield. Outside linebackers: Stephen Deslatte, Orangefield, Trey Baldwin, WO-S, Kalen Garrett, WO-S. Defensive Backs: Dylan Gruber, LC-M, Trey Chandler, LC-M, Trey Spencer, WO-S, Malik Phillips, WO-S. Safeties: Sean Langele, Orangefield, Zack Honeycutt, Bridge City. Punter: Thomas Findley, Bridge City.

23 Years Ago-2002

The lid is now shut on 2001, a year that today's 10-year olds will be telling their great grandchildren about. September 11, (9-11) is a date that will survive the ages in the minds of all Americans, like all of us who were youngsters Dec. 7, 1941, when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Now, we embark on a new year. Kim and Jason Matthews are new, proud parents of a baby girl Baylee Noel, born Dec. 18, 2001, sharing a birthday with grandmother Debbie Roy. Jason is with the Tenn. Titans football team. Former Dallas Cowboy Harvey Martin died last week at age 51. Former Thomas Jefferson and Bishop Byrne coach Bud Tomlin died at age 89. Homeboy, Coach R.C. Slocum and A&M beat TCU 28-9 in bowl game. (Editor's note: A&M let R.C. go. Go figure again.) Brian "Red" LaSalle, 44, was found dead at his home Dec. 24 by his brother Burl. Amber Dunn flying out of Boston Logan said the security was so tight she had to take off her shoes. This also happened on her flight from Houston to Austin. (Editor's note: That became a regular practice at all airports.) Ms. Phyl and Roy celebrated their 47th anniversary at the Creaux's Nest. A.J. Judice and Don Berard brought a most unusual gift, a "Yule Log" with the inscription, "Yule use it or Yule keep it but don't bring it back." Orange attorney Alan Sanders was recently appointed chairman of Partnership of Southeast Texas, a Regional Economic Development firm (POST). He replaces Dr. Sam Monroe.

48 Years Ago-1977

We lost a good, decent man, Cecil Wingate, an Orange native, father of 18 children, who worked hard as an accountant to maintain and provide for his family. Telephone information is no longer free. Operator assistant will cost 20 cents each. The Telephone Company promises not to go any higher. (Yeah! Right!) Bubba Hubbard was appointed to the parks board. The president is Sam Naifeh. Barbara Gillis returns to her old job as court reporter in the County Court of Law. The past four years she has been a court reporter in Jefferson County. Beth Dugas' brother, Bill Tulley, died of a massive heart attack New Year's Eve. Kebble Free has a house break-in that amounts to a big loss and he's mad as hell about it. N.J. "Vic" Vicknair is on a crash diet. His New Year's resolutions are also to quit smoking and drinking. What is there left to do Vic? Roy and Phyllis Dunn celebrated their 22 anniversary with a big New Year's Eve party at their home. Ann Lieby, who attended with Tim, says the guest list was a who's who of everyone in Orange County plus Gordon Baxter, Don Jacobs and Sen. Carl Parker and wives from Jefferson County. Also having a party were Harold and Patsy Fissette. A large group gathered there. David Skinner was the most amusing guy there. The Leo Stella's spent the holidays in Vail Colorado. The Charlie Patten's attended the Rose Bowl in Pasadena. New Bridge City Chamber directors are C.R. Nash, Chapman Bell and Bill Nickum. Bell says the new savings and loan building will be completed soon. Barbara Mandrell and the Do-Rites will play for the dance at the VFW Hall from 8 p.m. to midnight, Jan. 11. (Editor's note: That was before she hit the big time.) She later came back a star at the Lutchter Theater. This past year saw the passing of Bruce Tupper, a young man liked by everyone who knew him.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Another New Year is rolling in on Wednesday as the holiday season ends for this year. But get ready. Spring-winter events are about to start coming quickly. The Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce annual banquet is set for January 6 at the County Expo Center. The Orange Mardi Gras Ball will be February 8 and the big Mardi Gras parade will be February 22. And don't forget that the Bassmasters Elite fishing tournament will be back May 15. Brandi Griggs and Justin Riesen, took their blended family off to the Smokey Mountains of Tennessee for a white Christmas that included sledding and other snow sports. It must have been a sacrifice for Brandi, who is known for loving summer weather. Congratulations to Grant Loupe of LC-M High band. He's been accepted, after auditions, to be in the Blue Stars Drum and Bugle Corps for the group's international performances this summer. Condolences to West Orange City Councilor and historian Meritta Kennedy on the loss of her daughter, Dawn Norwood. A couple of weeks ago we received a letter from a lady named Sharon who was a former West Orange resident. We ran part of her letter about a story Mike Louvier had written several years ago about Orange. We were not sure where our friend and former feature writer lives. Mike sent us a letter, written in his unique style, that we are publishing in this issue. Mike has many friends here. Our buddy, Attorney Sharon Bearden spent Christmas at St. E's and his 86th birthday, Dec. 27, at Meadows Nursing Rehab Center where he will spend a few weeks after hip surgery. Speaking of birthdays, Jim Sharon Bearden, Jr. will celebrate Jan. 3. Celebrating also on this day is former commissioner, old story teller, and our friend, Owen Burton. He and Nelda will do to ride the range with. Special thanks to Mary Alice Hartsfield who looks out for old folks year around. She is truly an Angel who is spending a lifetime helping others while spreading the Word of God. Penny LeLeux is going to be hanging out on set in Houston over the weekend. She has a small part in a student film that is also a proof of concept for a series. Her character is a lady with secrets. She couldn't divulge any more information than that due to a nondisclosure agreement.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days. Jan. 1: Joanne Hill, Cynthia Hernandez, Glenda Wilburn. Jan. 2: Courtney Anderson, Amber Cortez, Johnny Acevedo, Angela Abshire, Cody Johnson, David Villanueva, Jason Sieck, June Gunstream, Kathy Mercer. Jan. 3: Jim Sharon Bearden, Owen Burton, Betty Johnson, Ann Burns, Alvin Wright, Barbara Dardeau. Jan. 4: Vergie Moreland, Devin Force, Angela Mazzola, Mary Williams, Nancy Lapeyrolerie. Jan. 5: Malinda Vail, Catherine Young, Lora Simpson, Deborah Schlicher, Patsy Dowden. Jan. 6: Clint Reves, DeeDee Viator, Louise Dubose, Sherry Morgan. Jan. 7: Michael Collins, Michael McFarlane, Chance Chatagnier, Carley Barclay, Kim Haynes, Betty Jagen, Carl Floyd, Ted Arnold, Teresa Collins. Also celebrating birthdays are Darlene Thompson, widow of the late Constable Jack Thompson, turned 92. Others with recent birthdays included Tricia Stroud, Bohn Dorman, Betty Garrison, Polly Gamblin, Aaron DuBois, Russell Bottley, Maggie Reynolds, Ashlyn Ellison, Robert Manning, Kim Dickerson, Terry Conder, Luke Caillevet, Roger Perry, Debby Pevetor Taylor, Bill Terry, Bridget Luna, and Stacey Nichols. Happy Anniversary to Roy and Phyllis Dunn who celebrate their 70th anniversary. Also George and Nevella Toal had their 48th. Jason and Kaleana Burch had their 26th. Chris and Christi Kovatch have been married 24 years. Others with anniversaries this past week included Jayson and Liz McKee, and Elvis and Melissa Rushing.

C'EST TOUT UPTON AND STOUT LAST SUVVIVORS OF UTAH GONE

Warren Upton, the oldest living survivor of the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor and the last remaining survivor of the USS Utah, has died at the age of 105. Upton died Wednesday, Dec. 25, at a hospital in Los Gatos, California. The Utah, a battleship, was moored at Pearl Harbor when Japanese planes began bombing the Hawaii naval base in the early hours of Dec. 7, 1941, in an attack that propelled the United States into World War II. By 2020, there were only three crew members of the Utah still alive, including himself. Bridge City's Cedric Stout was one of those three. He died January 17, 2024 at age 102. Stout was one of the lucky crewmen who dodged Japanese machine gun fire by taking cover just minutes before the Utah was hit by multiple torpedo bombers, rolled over and sank. Stout was raised in Leonville, Louisiana, a farming community near Opelousas. His sharecropping family worked the fields by hand. Their home had no electricity and no indoor plumbing. "We stayed barefoot most of the time," he recalls. At 17, in the heart of the Depression, Stout left home to join the Civilian Conservation Corps, a public works program for unemployed, unmarried men. He spent time building parks in Oregon. He returned to Louisiana and enlisted in the Navy. On leave in 1944, Stout married Delma Courville of Sunset, Louisiana, and the couple had nine children, all of whom attended Bridge City schools. After Delma passed away in 1999, he married his second wife, Cherry, a Port Arthur native. He and Cherry attended the Wednesday Lunch Bunch, in Orange, and they enjoyed being part of the group. Members traveled Cedric as their hero and Pearl Harbor survivor. There were an estimated 87,000 military personnel on Oahu on the day of the attack. After Upton's death, there are only 15 still alive. Read us cover to cover and please shop our family of advertisers. Here's wishing you a Happy, Healthy, New Year. Take care and God bless.

Seventy-years for Phyl and me

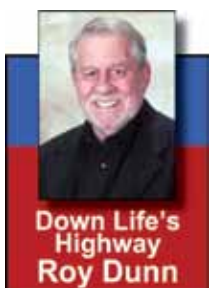
What a Ride Down Life's Highway

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

How quickly the years have flown by. I just recently realized that come December 31, Phyl and I will mark our 70th wedding anniversary. I knew, my heart knew, and my soul knew, the second I met her that she was the one I wanted to spend my life with. I went home and told my mom that I had met the girl I wanted to be my wife. Phyl never suspected. She was blinded by a smooth talking half-breed Cajun and Irish. I'd been around a lot and mostly on my own since the age of 14. She was a beautiful, olive skinned girl and that's probably what attracted my attention, but that's not what kept my interest. She was some-what-shy, soft-spoken and the nicest, kindest person I had ever met. She was uniquely different than all the other girls I'd known before. A junior at Bishop Byrne Catholic School, a good student, a good girl whose parents had high hopes for her future. I had to be the parents of a teenage daughter's worse fear. Her father was a Texaco plant worker and so was her only brother-in-law. The Oubre's only had two girls and here I come, a drifter without a plant job and no steady means of support, and I had targeted their baby daughter.

On New Year's Eve, 1954, with Margaret, a friend of Phyl's, we ran off to Kountze and got married at high noon by a lady Justice of the Peace. A lot of youngsters were eloping to Hardin County. There wasn't a waiting period. We needed a blood test so I pulled into Dr. Hammond's Hemorrhoid Clinic. They treated us like royalty because we were the first couple to ever stop in for a blood test at their rear-end clinic. Phyl should have known right then that I was going to take her down a winding road with lots of potholes, a ride she wasn't prepared for, coming from a regimented family with regular eating habits at regular times. Her dad kept track of every nickel spent in a little book including a pack of chewing gum.

I kept no regular hours, made money through my wits. Sometimes I had money in my jeans; most often I was dead broke, not knowing where the next meal was coming from. She never once complained. We kept our marriage a secret until she graduated from high school and that night we moved into our first apartment in South Park and I became a door-to-door vacuum cleaner salesman. Three thick volumes could be written about my exploits through the next quarter century. During those



Seventy-years ago on New Year's Eve, 1954, Roy and Phyllis Dunn ran off to Kountze and got married at high noon by a lady Justice of the Peace. They have devoted their lives to publishing The Record Newspapers in Orange County.

times, her strength sustained the marriage and provided a wholesome family life for our three children.

We ended up raising two others. Through the upbringing of the youngsters I did the Little League coaching deal, she was the team mom and life was about normal except for the fact that I never had a job and she never had a budget. The children, Mark, Allen and Karen were our primary focus. Raising children can be hectic and trying at times. Phyl is the most grounded person I know. A strong individual, a deep-rooted faith, a true sense of righteousness, wants only the simple things and the well being of her family.

We are opposites in the fact that I have been the out-going one. When I reached the age of 45, on my birthday, we got lucky. All the work, long hours, and the help of many wonderful people paid off. With the children all grown, we could afford to retire. We enjoyed the travel and our place in the Rio Grande Valley. All the major struggles behind us, we enjoyed the life and each other. Probably a big disappointment to Phyl was when I gave it all up to see if I could repeat the successful pioneering in the publishing business again. When I've done these things so much of the work load ends up in her corner. She's never backed up from work.

The Record Newspapers enjoys wide acceptance. They offer the best advertising vehicles for the dollar. Phyl knows that ink flows in my veins and working every day is a way of life for me but at some point I will have to consider my age. She also feels that we could be enjoying different things if we weren't strapped down. I tell her we already did those things. Some people retire at 65 and if they are lucky they make it to 80. I'd do it again the way we did it given the choice of both. But truthfully, the time is coming when I'll have to give it up.

People ask what the secret to bring

married 70 years is. There is no secret to it, just hope you live that long. I always knew that if the Lord lets us, Phyl and I would grow old together. Only two percent of marriages make it to 70 years. If your spouse is your best friend or if you look forward to going home instead of the beer joint you're already on the right track to 70 years. The rest is to treat your mate the way you would any stranger or store clerk. Be courteous, polite, caring, and mind your own business. Don't bring other people's problems home. Don't gossip or allow it in your home. Don't tell the other what to do and. That's about all there is to it. It works for us and will work for any couple as long as they like each other. You have to like being around each other. Phyl and I have never had a major argument in all the years. We might not agree at times but respect each other too much to make a big deal out of it. She still thinks I'm funny and laughs at my lines. Small things couples do for each other can mean so much.

That wedding on that New Year's Eve a longtime ago has produced three children,

five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. We have been truly blessed with healthy off springs and a life for us with no major health problems. Our biggest fear, what we dread most, is the day that one of us will leave the other behind. We are thankful for the many friends that came our way and are saddened by all those that we have lost. True friends, those you can count on and will always be there for you are few. It's not necessarily the ones you socialize with or are in constant contact with, it's those that are always with you wherever you are regardless of how long since the last contact. Seventy-years is a long time when you say it but because of those friends along the way, a happy home life and staying busy, the years have just flown by. The mirror reflects the age but Phyl and I have inner spirit and seem a lot younger than we are. We just can't believe it and wonder where the years went. We take it day by day and look forward to the days ahead in hopes that they will turn into years. We are truly blessed and so thankful for our family.

We never had a job but worked all the time in several different ventures. We never had downtime. Owning a business is far different than working at one. It is constant and with you at all times. I've personally enjoyed my work and the many ventures. Along with other businesses we owned three liquor stores. Phyl ran one with an apartment attached where she cooked meals and tended to the children. She then joined me in the newspaper business. We owned five successful papers starting with the Opportunity Valley News. We owned papers in Beaumont, Port Arthur, Mid-County and three in Orange County.

Old age caught up with us before we realized it. I'm 90 years old and Phyl is not far behind. We have outlived most of our friends but are thankful for those we have today. We have known many colorful characters from all walks of life. Phyl and I are truly blessed. We pray that good fortune will follow us the rest of this earthly trip. The waters of time run its many courses. We feel each other's pain, read the other's mind and almost think as one. We are truly soul mates. There never was a doubt that we would share our lives until the bus comes to get one of us.

Dedicated to our loving family.

Broadway musical coming to Lutch Theater

The Lutch Theater announces the electrifying Broadway musical "Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of The Temptations" will take the stage for two performances on Jan. 14 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. This smash-hit musical, nominated for 12 Tony® Awards and winner of the 2019 Tony Award for Best Choreography, brings the ex-

traordinary story of The Temptations to life.

Set to the beat of the group's treasured hits, including "My Girl," "Just My Imagination," "Get Ready," and "Papa Was a Rolling Stone," "Ain't Too Proud" follows The Temptations' extraordinary journey from the streets of Detroit to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Audiences will experience

the thrilling story of brotherhood, family, loyalty and betrayal during a decade of civil unrest in America.

Tickets for "Ain't Too Proud - The Life and Times of The Temptations" range in price from \$40 to \$95 and are available at lutch.org or by calling the Lutch Theater Box Office at 409.886.5535.

Accepting New Patients

Gulf Coast Cardiology Group, P.L.L.C.

A Brand New Concept In Heart Care

- Walk In Heart Clinic - No Appointment Necessary (M-F 830a-5:30p)
- Same Day Testing in Office: Ultrasounds & Nuclear Stress Testing
- In Office Heart Cath Lab - Capable of stenting heart and leg arteries in the office as well as implanting pacemakers and defibrillators.
- Every Patient is always seen & examined by a Board Certified Cardiologist.
- Cath Lab Services are provided the same day with no delays.

If you are tired of struggling with VARICOSE VEINS, set an appointment now for "ABLATION OF THE LEGS" with DR. ABOCHAMH or DR. ABDULLAH.

<p>Pradij J. Morbia, M.D. F.A.C.C., F.C.C.P. Board Certified in Cardiovascular Medicine, Interventional Cardiology & Internal Medicine</p>	<p>Specializing in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardiovascular Consultation • Critical Care / ICU • Invasive Cardiology • Cardiac Catheterization • Interventional Cardiology • PTCA (Percutaneous Transluminal Coronary Angioplasty) • Stent Placement • Rotablator IVUS • Angiojet • Non-Invasive Cardiology • Echocardiography • TEE (Transesophageal Echocardiogram) • 24-Holter Monitoring • Stress Testing and Stress Echocardiography • Peripheral Vascular Interventions and Stents, Renal, Iliac, Femoral, Popliteal, Mesenteric, Subclavian • Pacemaker Implantation & Services • Preventive Cardiology • Tilt Table Testing • Nuclear Cardiology • Inferior Vena Cava Filter • Biventricular Pacemaker • AICD (Automatic Implantable Pacemaker Defibrillator) 	<p>Nabeel Abdullah, M.D. F.A.C.C. Board Certified in Cardiovascular Medicine, Echocardiography & Internal Medicine, Specialized in Interventional Cardiology</p>
---	--	---

<p>Dia A. Abochamh, M.D. Board Certified in Cardiovascular Medicine, Specialized in Interventional Cardiology & Electrophysiology</p>	<p>3921 Twin City Hwy. Jefferson City Shopping Center (Old Woolco Building), Port Arthur, Texas 77642 Open M-F 8:30am to 5:30pm (409) 963-0000 After hours 724-7389 • (409) 963-1899 Fax</p>	<p>Mohammed A. Islam, M.D. F.A.C.C. Board Certified in Cardiovascular Medicine, Echocardiography, Nuclear Cardiology & Internal Medicine</p>
--	---	---

www.GulfCoastCardio.com • We Accept All Insurance Plans

**ICANL Accredited Nuclear Stress & Pet Scan
IAC Accredited Cardio Department**

We have Spanish and Vietnamese interpreters available in the office.

INSURANCE MADE SIMPLE

• Home • Auto • Life

aNe Insurance is a leading independent insurance agency that specializes in business and personal insurance.

JULIE	BECKY	ELLEN NICKUM	CAROLYN
-------	-------	--------------	---------

1025 Texas Avenue • Bridge City • (409) 735-2010

Honor Your (Elderly) Parents

Kathleen Nielson
desiringGod.org

Recently, I enjoyed reconnecting with a friend from college who is now sixty-something years old (like me) and who cares for her elderly mom (like me).

There are a lot of us! This friend described how she and her husband took her mother, a widow in declining health, into their home; they had thought the time would be short, but the years of care are stretching long. "We had all sorts of plans laid for our retirement years — travel and ministry and so forth," said my friend, rather ruefully. "We just didn't anticipate this."

My friend loves her mom, but she is struggling with the weight of caring for her in her old age. The huge commitment of time, space, money, and emotional support somewhat ambushed her. It's a story told often these days, in various versions, but with the same theme of figuring out how best to care for aging parents.

And the numbers of these mothers and fathers will only grow as baby boomers crowd the ranks of the elderly. From the world's perspective, solutions to the problem can be found in improved government programs, retirement facilities, and health-care provisions.

Certainly, some of these solutions can help. From a

Christian perspective, however, we believers have not a problem but an opportunity — an opportunity to live out God's call to honor our parents.

What can we tell adult children in the church to help prepare them for this call to honor aging parents and elders? As one in the thick of learning the lessons (and the blessings) of honoring,

I would suggest three main messages for the adult children among us.

1. Look Ahead

The media is full of lies about the future. We adults can forget too easily that this vitamin supplement will not keep us (or our parents) forever young, and that investment will not give us (or our parents) unending security. Advertisements do not show the later stages of old age and death.

To see the whole story, we need to visit retirement communities or nursing homes — or hopefully churches! We as God's people should be taking great pains to include, spend time with, and listen to the elderly in our church families. We need to know them — to the end.

Younger generations need to witness firsthand what it looks like to obey God's strong call to honor our parents and to respect the elders among us.

God made us humans to



live in generations, with one generation telling the next about the glory of God and the wonder of our salvation in Jesus Christ (Psalm 78:4). As we teach the Scriptures generation by generation in the church, we help younger people look ahead with open eyes. We must tell the whole story.

After the fall, God's judgment of sin made the generational flow full of sorrow — including the sorrowful decay of bodies leading to physical death. Aging and death are not avoidable threats to our happiness; they are the wages of sin. They are not good and natural parts of Mother Nature's flow; they are grievous judgments from the hand of a holy God.

Most importantly, we teach the next generations to look ahead to the real hope of the gospel. God's own Son came to conquer not just physical death but

also the greater spiritual death that is eternal separation from our Creator. Jesus Christ took our sin to the cross and fully suffered God's punishment of death in our place. Through faith in him, we can look ahead — and teach the next generations to look ahead — to resurrected bodies like Christ's, to eternal life in the new heaven and earth where God will dwell with us, his people.

So, look ahead. Include aging and death (both your parents' and yours) in your plans. Listen to the Bible's whole story, and look ahead with hope.

2. Arm Yourself

All of us easily inflatable humans like to imagine ourselves swooping into a crisis, acting heroically, and saving those who would have been lost without us. Caring for elderly parents is not like

that — not usually, anyway.

Adult children need to hear the call not to quick public heroism but rather to long messy battles unseen and unsung. The enemy of death has been defeated at the cross and the empty tomb, yet until the victorious Savior returns, this dark foe is still hanging around, spreading pain and grief. Our risen Lord empowers us to face this enemy through faith that perseveres.

Certainly, there is wisdom in listening to and learning from doctors and experienced caregivers. But Christians have the full resources of the all-wise God available to them — by God's Spirit, through his word, and among his people.

Generational ministry lives in the church, Christ's body; we are meant to work together as we honor the previous generation and pass God's truth to the next.

Regular participation in corporate worship centered on the preaching of God's word is the basic layer of my armor for the battle as I care for my 98-year-old mom.

The ordinary means of grace are meant to fortify us regularly for all of life — not just the grand moments of faithful service offered in the name of the Savior who laid down his life for us.

So, arm yourself. Start early; don't be ambushed. The battle might well be long and hard, but what's at stake will shine gloriously in the end.

3. Get Down

This is not martyrdom, this call to care for the elderly. It is God's command, and we get to please him by obeying. We grown humans tend to forget that we were once babies, naked and often dirty, needy and inconvenient.

Why would we forgo making some return to those whose lives were often turned upside down as they cared for us? And why would we neglect the lessons to be learned about the care of our heavenly Father, whose own Son emptied himself and came down for the sake of us sinful children?

We won't care for aging parents perfectly. Part of humbly accepting the call is acknowledging our need for God's merciful forgiveness.

In the presence of the elderly, we are often standing right beside the doorway to eternity. These moments of care may look lowly and humdrum from the outside, but they are actually earth-shattering. Souls are entering the very presence of God.

We caregivers get to be confronted with our own life's brevity; we get to learn to pray, "Teach us to number our days, that we may get a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).

None of us is above caring for aging loved ones. So, look ahead to this part of the story, arm yourself to walk through it faithfully, and get down low to be blessed by the Father above.



Winfree Baptist Church
19525 Hwy 62 S • 409-735-7181
office@winfreebaptist.org
Dr. Larry Haynes, Pastor

SUNDAY
Sunday School - 9:15 am
Morning Worship - 10:30 am

WEDNESDAY
Mid-Week Service - 6:00 pm
Prayer Meeting/Bible Study

Committed... To Christ, To His Word,
To His Church, To His Commission

Starlight Church of God in Christ

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE 11 AM
SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:30 AM
BIBLE STUDY: WEDNESDAY 6 PM
WEDNESDAY VIM 6 PM
WEDNESDAY WORSHIP: 7:30 PM
INTERCESSORY PRAYER: DAILY 9 AM
ONLINE PRAYER: DAILY 6 AM

Pastor: Ernest B. Lindsey

www.slccogiclorangetexas.org
2800 BOB HALL ROAD, ORANGE
(409) 886-4366



Cowboy Church of Orange County
Anointed Ministry with Pastor Harland Strother
Sundays at 9 and 10:30 a.m.
Plus rockin' Gospel music by Cowboy Cross Band
673 FM 1078, Orange
409-920-2271
youtube.com/c/cowboychurchoforangecounty



First Baptist Church
Bridge City, Texas

SERVICE TIMES:
Sunday Bible Study 9:15 am
Sunday School 9:15 am
SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:30 am
Wednesday Evening: 6:30 pm

Adult, Youth, Children Discipleship Classes
Sunday 5:30 pm

PASTOR: KEITH ROYAL
230 W. Roundbunch Rd. Bridge City
www.fbcabc.org - 409-735-3581



Wesley United Methodist Church

Open Hearts, Open Minds, Open Doors.

PASTOR BENNY SMITH AND WIFE IBERIA

• WORSHIP:
Sunday Morning 11:00-12:00 p.m.
• WEDNESDAY EVENING:
Fellowship Meal at 5:00 p.m. Prayer needs at 6:00 p.m.
Bible Study 6:15-7:15 p.m.
• SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday Mornings 10:00-10:45 a.m.
Services Streamed Live on Facebook. Visit Us Online

401 N. 37th Street • Orange
www.orangewesley.org (409) 886-7276



First United Methodist Church

Rooted In Christ • Branching Out In Faith
Disciples Growing Disciples

• SUNDAY SCHOOL ALL AGES: 9 A
• SUNDAY SERVICE 10 AM


Our Services Are Also Featured On Facebook and YouTube
Details Online: <https://www.fumcorange.org/>
Pastor: Rev. Lani Rousseau
502 6TH STREET • ORANGE • 409-886-7466



Like New Collision Specialist
EST. 1977 ORANGE TX

- Complete Bodywork
- Paint Refinishing
- Complete Frame Straightening
- Frame & Front End Equipment
- Complete Collision Repair

19805 Highway 62 S. - Orange
409-735-7126



Living Word Church
INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH

*Pray For The Sick
And Cast Out Demons*

JOIN US SUNDAY 10 AM AND THURSDAY 6 PM
Corner of HWY 87 & F.M. 1006, Orange
409-735-6659 www.livingwordtx.org



TRIANGLE BAPTIST CHURCH
ORANGEFIELD

Come worship with us!

• SUNDAY SCHEDULE
• Sunday School- 10 am • Sunday Worship-11 00 -Evening- 6 pm
• WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7 PM
We Are A KJV Independent Baptist Church

6446 Garrison on Highway at Hwy. 408
www.trianglebaptist.com (409) 920-3891

Texas Tops in 2024: Mavericks reach NBA Finals, Texas renews rivalry with Texas A&M



Texas athletes shined at the Summer Olympics in Paris, with gymnast Simone Biles leading the charge, earning three gold medals and a silver. Overall, Texas athletes claimed 43 medals - 20 gold - which would have ranked sixth in the medal count if the state were its own country.



Luka Doncic #77 of the Dallas Mavericks celebrates with teammates after a 124-103 victory against the Minnesota Timberwolves in Game Five of the Western Conference Finals at Target Center on May 30, 2024 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



San Antonio Spurs sensation Victor Wembanyama made history, earning unanimous NBA Rookie of the Year honors—the first French player to do so. Wembanyama also became the first rookie to make the All-Defensive Team, averaging 23 points and 10 rebounds per game.

Reported By
KRLD News

The 2024 sports year in Texas delivered unforgettable moments across professional and collegiate sports, from an NBA Finals runs to renewed rivalries on the football field.

The Dallas Mavericks stormed through the

Western Conference to reach the NBA Finals for the first time since 2011. Despite falling to the Boston Celtics in five games, Luka Doncic averaged nearly 29 points per game during the playoffs.

Meanwhile, San Antonio Spurs sensation Victor Wembanyama made history, earning unanimous

NBA Rookie of the Year honors—the first French player to do so. Joining Spurs legends David Robinson and Tim Duncan, Wembanyama also became the first rookie to make the All-Defensive Team, averaging 23 points and 10 rebounds per game.

The 2024 sports year in Texas delivered unforgettable

moments across professional and collegiate sports, from an NBA Finals runs to renewed rivalries on the football field.

The Dallas Mavericks stormed through the Western Conference to reach the NBA Finals for the first time since 2011. Despite falling to the Bos-

ton Celtics in five games, Luka Doncic averaged nearly 29 points per game during the playoffs.

Meanwhile, San Antonio Spurs sensation Victor Wembanyama made history, earning unanimous NBA Rookie of the Year honors—the first French player to do so. Joining Spurs legends David Rob-

inson and Tim Duncan, Wembanyama also became the first rookie to make the All-Defensive Team, averaging 23 points and 10 rebounds per game.

In baseball, the Houston Astros represented Texas in the MLB playoffs, reaching the Wild Card

TEXAS TOPS Page 4B

Here's what you need to know about Texas' new vehicle inspection law

Staff Report
For The Record

A new state law says drivers will no longer need to get an annual vehicle safety inspection starting Jan. 1, 2025.

But in urban counties across Texas, emissions tests are still required to get that registration sticker.

Here's what you need to know about what that means when it comes to getting your vehicle registered.

What's changed

Texas is no longer requiring drivers to get a vehicle safety inspection in order to get their car registered with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

The state Legislature approved the change to the law during the last legislative session.

House Bill 3297 eliminated mandatory safety inspections for all non-commercial vehicles. Instead of an inspection, drivers will need to pay a

\$7.50 inspection replacement fee.

However, the state's 17 most populous counties will still require an emissions test in order to get a vehicle registered.

That means drivers in those counties still need to take their car to an inspection site annually.

What's an emissions test?

An emissions test consists of an engine and exhaust check, along with a visual inspection, to measure the amount of pollutants released meet the legal limit set by the state.

The test is required in certain Texas counties that are considered "non-attainment" for air quality pollutants. That includes most of North Texas, where the North Central Texas Council of Governments says ozone pollutants are out of compliance with federal standards.

"If you fail to get an emissions test, you've essentially failed to properly register your vehicle," said Anthony Moffa, an air

quality planner with the council. "The penalty for that is as it always has been. You just get a ticket for an improperly registered vehicle."

The following counties will require emissions test

for vehicle registration:

- Brazoria
- Collin
- Dallas
- Ellis
- El Paso
- Fort Bend

- Galveston
- Harris
- Johnson
- Kaufman
- Montgomery
- Parker
- Rockwall
- Tarrant

- Travis
- Williamson

Bexar County will also require an emissions test beginning in 2026.

So to recap, I do need to

VEHICLE Page 3B

Fort Worth surpasses Austin as Texas's 4th-largest city

Reported By
USA Today Network

Another Texas city has replaced Austin as the fourth-largest city in the state, according to 2023 data released in November.

Population figures for Texas counties and places from July 1, 2023, and Jan. 1, 2024, were collected in the Texas Demographic Center's 2023 Population Estimates report. Data from January 2024 shows a shift in the top four largest cities in the state, knocking Austin to No. 5.

Here's what the latest population estimates reveal.

Fort Worth replaces Austin as 4th-largest Texas city

Fort Worth has surpassed Austin as the fourth-most populous city in the Lone Star State, according to the Texas Demographic Center.

Population estimates from January 2024 show Fort Worth having 989,878 residents — nearly 3,000 more than Austin. Between 2020 and 2024, Fort

FORT WORTH Page 5B

HARDWOOD AND LAMINATE FLOORING

CERAMIC TILE AND STONE FLOORING

CARPET OF EVERY STYLE AND COLOR

We'll Save You Money On Everything Flooring

Top Deck Flooring Co.

1000 South Ashton - Vidor
409-422-4277 • www.TopDeckFlooring.com

OUTDOORS

Conquer your fear of muddy water for winter success

OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

Here in Texas there are a few things that are common from Sabine to Baffin at this time of the year and everyone who calls the coast or saltwater home has an idea what those things are.

Probably the biggest and most common factor is the wind, you just can't escape those big gusts that seem to come around every weekend. The wind is a constant factor and most anglers eventually figure out how to deal with the uncomfortable conditions, some seek shelter in protected waters while others just brave the waves and tough it out.

Now aside from the obvious comparisons about the wind the other common factor that plagues anglers during this time of the year is muddy water. Nothing will run off the weekend angler like muddy off colored water. The misconception about not being able to see in the dirty stuff has cost many a fisherman a good day on the water.

A good friend of mine, Mac McCune who happens to be in the business of managing freshwater lakes, opened my eyes up about so called muddy water one day while we were fishing on Sabine Lake. We were about half way across the lake heading southeast towards an area where we had been catching some pretty respectable fish. As we approached I could see that the run off from up north had begun to work it's way down the lake and the water that only days before had been so perfect now looked like a stale Yoo-Hoo poured on a brown paper bag.

Mac could tell I wasn't real happy about the hand we had been dealt so he asked me what was wrong as we continued to search the area. I explained about how the water clarity was terrible and no self respecting fisherman would be anywhere close to this ugly water. Mac calmly reached down into the cooler, found an empty clear plastic water bottle, dipped it into the water, and filled it up for examination. "This water isn't so bad when you look at it from the angle of the fish" he said as held the bottle up and peered through the sides. "It looks bad from where we are but you can actually see pretty well when you look through it instead of down into it" he added.

Sure enough once you looked through the water in the way a fish would you could see much better than I first thought, that was a lesson I never forgot as we proceeded to catch fish in the same water I had been ready to give up on only minutes before.

Now muddy water has its own particular personality and certain adjustments will have to be made in order to be successful. One benefit that muddy water presents at this time of the year is that it will be warmer than ultra clear water on average. The suspended particles in the water will hold heat better therefore the temperatures will be warmer. This especially holds true on outgoing tides where warmer water exits marshes and shallow flats. Places where the warmer, muddy or off colored water enters a bay or lake are magnets for predator fish as they often hide on the color change or streak and ambush their prey.

The great thing about a situation like this is that there are tons of places where you can make this pattern work for you because every bay system has plenty of drains where the water moves during tide changes. These places can produce some

CAPTAIN CHUCK Page 5B

'The Lakes' Fishing

• Toledo Bend Fishing Report

FAIR. Water normal stain; 61 degrees; 3.76 feet below pool. Fishing is good for this time of year with a late fall pattern. Bass can be caught with a swim jig, chatterbait, and spinnerbait on the bank in 1-6 feet of water. Then back out to 10-16 feet of water and catch them with a Texas and Carolina rig, or 18-25 feet of water with a spoon or dropshot. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• Sam Rayburn Fishing Reports

FAIR. Water slightly stained; 58 degrees; 2.29 feet below pool. Fishing patterns are holding steady. The first two weeks of January are usually when the water really cools down. Bass are chasing shad in the shallows and off points. When you can find grass on the south end there is usually a bass that can be caught on crankbaits. Crappie and white bass are moving in the river channel, but are not stacked up in the river like normal. Catfish are good in 15-26 feet of water on cut bait and minnows. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service.

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports- Winter Fishing

Compiled by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

• Sabine Lake

GOOD. 68 degrees. Neches River is good for sheepshead, drum and redfish off the rocks and shell flats with live shrimp under a popping cork or on a Carolina rig. Some channel catfish are mixed in with the brackish water. Target the points, flats and rocks leaving the bay-out where shrimp are flushing out.

Trout are good at the Bessie Heights Marsh cuts and flats under the birds. There is a lot of shrimp in the marsh for game fish to gorge on. This pattern should continue through January. North Levy Wall and Pleasure Island are producing phenomenal speckled trout and limits of redfish with 1/2 ounce jigheads or 3/4 ounce gold spoons. Sabine Lake is producing nice speckled trout and redfish mid to north lake under the birds with a 3/4 ounce gold spoon, topwaters, and 1/2 ounce jigheads in white or white ice.

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

• Bolivar

GOOD. 67 degrees. Water levels are swapping back-and-forth this week with the north winds pushing the tide out, and the incoming tide is clear. Anglers are still catching plenty of redfish everywhere.

The big croakers are still being caught along with a few more sand trout, black drum, redfish, speckled trout, and crabs caught along the jetty with a few small stingrays and sharks. The surf is producing numbers of redfish, black drum, the occasional speckled trout and crabs along the whole peninsula with more activity towards Gilchrist, High Island mainly.

Report by Captain Shane Rilal, North Jetty Bait Camp.

• Trinity Bay

SLOW. 63 degrees. The back end of the bay is good for scattered reds and speckled trout on live shrimp and artificial lures. Marshes are good for redfish. Fish are moving north, with good catches of speckled trout from above I-10 in the San Jacinto river. Live shrimp and soft plastics are effective. Still plenty of fish between Fred Hartman Bridge and I-10. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

Water clarity is good. Redfish are being caught well in the current and near drop-offs feeding heavily in the bottom using swimbaits, gulp curly tails and gulp shrimp. Trout are fantastic in current over rock flats and shell flats being caught on swim baits and shrimp imitation baits. Flounder are starting to really pick up on drains using swim baits and gulp baits. Drum are heavy on rock flats being caught on live or dead shrimp. Always wear your kill switch when underway. God is great! Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

GOOD. 62 degrees. Back water drains and lakes producing speckled trout and redfish on hard plastic baits and soft plastic lures.



Anglers looking to score big winter trout have plenty of options to help their pursuit. .
 RECORD PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

Reefs are good for black drum and sheepshead. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Surface water temperature 62 degrees. The water clarity is excellent now for East Galveston Bay. The trout bite has remained steady, catching good numbers and some oversize fish as well on our artificial only trips. The ticket the past few days has been fishing very slowly on the bottom over deeper shell with 1/4 ounce jig heads with WACKY shad XL tails by Wac Attack, with Rollover Moon, securing the most bites. The redfish bite has been on fire around grass lines and in the shallow water areas where we see active bait using imitation shrimp lures and Deadly Dudley Rat tails under popping corks, with a

1-foot leader. As in previous weeks, if you do not see active bait in the area move on rather quickly if you are not getting any bites. Do not let the less-than-ideal weather keep you off the water, as this time of year brings some of the best fishing conditions for larger fish. Get out and make it happen with your family and friends. Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Service, LLC.

• Galveston Bay

SLOW. 64 degrees. Upper Galveston bay around Sylvan Beach good for speckled trout on soft plastics. Clear Lake produces scattered trout catches on live shrimp and soft plastics. A few redfish

in both areas. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• West Galveston Bay

GOOD. 64 degrees. Drifting the dirty streaks in the open bay producing scattered catches of speckled trout. Those fishing in Chocolate and even Hall's Bayou catching speckled trout, black drum, and redfish on soft plastics and live shrimp are effective. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• Freeport

GOOD. 62 degrees. Fishing has been good in between fronts. Redfish and trout have been good working under the birds with plastic or gulp under a popping cork. In Bastrop Bay, Christmas Bay, Chocolate Bay, Salt Lake and Oyster Lake. Brazos River has been good with reds, trout, drum, sand trout with either live shrimp or fresh dead shrimp. Flounder have been good on gulp, new penny shrimp and live finger mullet. Report by Captain Jake Brown, Flattie Daddy Fishing Adventures

• Texas City

GOOD. 62 degrees. All eyes have turned to flounder. Good catches of flounder are coming from the Galveston channel, with the best bite on live shrimp and gulps. Fish up to 7 pounds have been caught. Those gigging at night are doing well. Still bull redfish and oversized black drum being caught off the dike and the Galveston jetties. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter

Better Values, Outstanding Service for 62-Years!

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED

HARRY'S APPLIANCE AND SERVICE CENTER

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED BY MARGIE STEPHENS

302 North 10th Street • Orange • (409) 886-4111

First-of-its-kind project to improve native muscadine grapes

Paul Schattenberg
Texas A&M AgriLife

Texas A&M AgriLife will collaborate in a first-of-its-kind project to propagate new seedless muscadine grape varieties to benefit grape growers in Texas and beyond.

The four-year, \$7 million project, "Through the Grapevine: Developing Vitis x Muscadinia Wide Hybrids for Enhanced Disease Resistance and Quality," is funded by a U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute Food and Agriculture grant.

The research involves the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the University of Arkansas, the University of Georgia and several other institutions and agencies. Research and extension efforts related to the project will be conducted and implemented with industry partners and stakeholders.

"This project is a part of a larger departmental mission focused on sustainability, wellness and food security," said Amit Dhingra, Ph.D., head of Texas A&M's Department of Horticultural Sciences. "The proposed work represents an opportunity to identify new muscadine varieties for Texas to support fresh market sales, wine and other products."

Improving the muscadine grape

Muscadine grapes are one of the 13 species of grapes native to Texas and the only native grape species that has been improved through breeding and selection. After over 100 years of muscadine breeding, plant breeders developed the first seedless selections.

Muscadines grow well in East Texas due to the area's humid climate but

are also successful in a variety of soil types, especially those that are pH neutral or slightly acidic. In addition to pest and disease tolerance, the grapes demonstrate good drought tolerance.

The grapes are typically large and ripen individually. While the skin is somewhat tough, the fruit is highly flavorful and popular for use in jams, jellies and juices as well as home and commercial wine-making.

Developing varieties for both fresh and wine markets

The overall project will involve more than 30 viticulturists, grape breeders, physiologists, food scientists and economists. Their efforts will support grape growers in propagating new seedless muscadine selections for trials across the southeastern U.S.

Texas A&M AgriLife team members from the Department of Horticultural Sciences participating in the project include Justin Scheiner, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service viticulture specialist and associate professor, Bryan-College Station; Michael Cook, AgriLife Extension program specialist and doctoral student, Denton; and Andrew King, Ph.D., Texas A&M AgriLife Research ornamental horticulture scientist and assistant professor, Overton. Scheiner will provide leadership for the Texas A&M AgriLife team.

Texas A&M AgriLife will also host two research vineyard sites in northeastern and southeastern Texas to evaluate new "fresh eating" or table selections as well as those for processing. One research trial will be planted at Thomas Ranch near



The Texas A&M AgriLife portion of the muscadine grape improvement project will include hosting two research vineyard sites — one near Richards and another in Overton. (Justin Scheiner/Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service)

Richards, which is operated by AgriLife Research. The other trial will be at the Texas A&M AgriLife Research and Extension Center at Overton. Muscadine grape trials in Texas will be planted in the spring of 2025.

Another team member, Stephen Talcott, Ph.D., professor of food chemistry in the Texas A&M Department of Food Science and Technology, will analyze fruit composition and post-harvest quality of all materials from these trials.

"This project will seek to crossbreed muscadines and Vitis vinifera, or common, grapes to get the best characteristics of these two grape species," Scheiner said. "Both generations of grapes will be instrumental in breeding new high-quality, climate-resilient cultivars for both the fresh market and wine production."

Cook said he and the others are thrilled to be part of a national multi-disciplinary team exploring ways to improve muscadines, as well as bunch grapes, to provide tangible solutions for growers.

"We are particularly ex-

cited in the first objective of the project where we are doing trials of advanced muscadine cultivars," he said. "This effort could change the face of the grape industry in Texas."

According to Cook, various environmental and input factors have made growing grapes more difficult, risky and costly over time, so the results of this multi-objective study will be vital in aiding growers in regard to future cultivar selection and best practices tailored to a changing viticulture landscape.

"Texas grape growers have expressed great interest in this project," Dhingra added.

Texas Tops in 2024

From Page 1B

Round before falling to the Detroit Tigers. The state's standout baseball story came from Boerne, where a Little League team finished fourth in the Little League World Series after a strong run, ultimately losing to Venezuela and Florida.

Texas athletes shined at the Summer Olympics in Paris, with gymnast Simone Biles leading the charge, earning three gold medals and a silver. Overall, Texas athletes claimed 43 medals - 20 gold - which would have ranked sixth in the medal count if

the state were its own country. The University of Texas alone contributed 16 medals, ranking higher than Sweden.

The Dallas Cowboys faced a challenging season, losing quarterback Dak Prescott to a season-ending hamstring injury in Week 9 against the Atlanta Falcons. Prescott underwent surgery and is targeting a return for off-season workouts.

In college football, the University of Texas and Texas A&M renewed their rivalry for the first time since 2011. Texas secured

a 17-7 victory, with Quentin Wisner rushing for nearly 200 yards. Both Texas and SMU made history by qualifying for the inaugural College Football Playoff, as the fifth and 11th seeds, respectively.

Adding to Texas' sports milestones, Dallas secured a prominent role in the 2026 FIFA World Cup. AT&T Stadium will host a semifinal, a round of 16 match, two round of 32 matches, and five group-stage games - the most of any site in the tournament.



Wishing blessings and all the best to you and yours for a wonderful New Year!



Orange County Judge
John Gothia



PORT OF ORANGE



Orange County Navigation and Port District and the Industrial Development Corporation

Offering Barge Services, Deep Sea Terminals, Lay Berth Facilities, Foreign Trade Zones and Economic Development for all Orange County.

ORANGE COUNTY NAVIGATION & PORT DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

- John Montagne • President
- Debbie Britnell • Vice President
- Keith Wallace • Secretary/Treasurer
- Walter Mullins, III • Commissioner
- Marvin Spears • Commissioner

Lorrie Taylor, Executive Port Director/CEO

1201 Childers Road • P.O. Box 2410
Orange, Texas 77631-2410, USA
Phone: 409/883-4363 • Fax: 409/883-5607

www.portoforange.com



Texas ranked second in executions in 2024

Reported By
Houston Public Media

Texas ranked second in the nation for the number of executions carried out in 2024. This year's annual report from the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (TCADP) found the state skewed heavily towards people of color, both in terms of those executed and those newly sentenced to die.

"Alabama led all states with six executions," said TCADP executive director Kristin Houlié Cuellar, "but for the last-minute intervention by state and federal courts in the cases of Robert Roberson and Ruben Gutierrez, Texas very well could have led the nation in executions once again this year."

Of the five executions Texas carried out this year, three came from death sentences handed down in the Greater Houston area. Those included Garcia White and Arthur Burton from Harris County and Travis Mullis, a Brazoria County man sentenced in

Galveston County.

Harris County led the state in terms of the number of executions this year with two, while Tarrant County led in terms of the number of new death sentences with three.

"Of the five people put to death by the state this year, four were people of color, and of the six people sentenced to death by juries, five of them are people of color," Cuellar said, "This raises real concerns about the continued racial bias in the administration of the death penalty."

The report indicated this has been a trend over time. Over the past five years, juries in Texas have handed down 16 new death sentences, 11 to people of color and five to whites. The trend has been even more pronounced in the counties that make the greatest use of the death penalty.

"Twenty-one of the last twenty-two defendants sentenced to death in Harris County are people of color: sixteen are Black; four are Hispanic; and one is another non-white race/



FILE - The gurney in Huntsville, Texas, where inmates are strapped down to receive a lethal dose of drugs, is shown May 27, 2008.

ethnicity," the report said. "In 2019, Ronald Haskell was the first white defendant in Harris County to receive a death sentence since November 2004."

The report noted that all six men sentenced to death in Tarrant County since 2013 are people of color. Over the same period, Tar-

rarrant County prosecutors unsuccessfully sought the death penalty in five additional cases involving Black or Hispanic defendants.

Juries rejected death sentences in three of these cases, while two other cases were declared mistrials due to the pandemic and were ultimately resolved

with sentences of life in prison without parole.

According to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Black individuals constitute 46.6% of death row inmates, even though they represent just 13.6% of Texas residents.

By contrast, whites make up 25.3% of the death row inmates, compared to 39.6% of the general population. Hispanics make up 26.4% of the individuals on death row and 39.8% of the general population of Texas. The six new death sentences handed down by Texas juries this year were double the number handed down last year. Still, the long-term trend is of decline.

"Death sentences peaked in this state in 1999, when juries sent 48 people to death row," Cuellar said. "For the last decade, death sentences have remained in the single digits every year."

Vehicle inspection law

From Page 1B

register my vehicle — and renew it annually?

Yes. And, said Sgt. Billy Ray with the Texas Department of Public Safety, you still need to keep up with maintenance, even if an inspection is no longer required.

"We urge people to still take care of their vehicles, still check your tires, make sure your brakes are working, headlights, tail lights and mirrors are still safe before you drive," he said.

In 2023, state lawmakers eliminated the change to save drivers time and money. Critics worry it will make some of the country's most dangerous roads more deadly. At least one person dies on roads in Texas every day according to TxDOT.

Small government advocates, conservative groups, and Tesla supported the change according to the Texas Tribune. The Dallas Police Association, Texas State Inspection Association, and Texas sheriffs tried to stop the change.

Some non-commercial vehicles will still need emission testing, depending on where the owner lives, and all vehicles will still need to be registered.

All non-commercial vehicles in the state will continue to be subject to a \$7.50 inspection program replacement fee. The replacement inspection program fee will be paid when registering a vehicle with the Texas Department of Motor Vehicles.

New vehicles (those of

the current or previous model year on the date of purchase) purchased in Texas that have not been previously registered in Texas or another state must pay an initial inspection program replacement fee of \$16.75 to cover two years.

This fee simply replaces the source of revenue for state programs and operations that were once supported by vehicle safety inspections, such as the construction and expansion of state highways.

Although vehicle safety inspections will be eliminated for all non-commercial vehicles, Texans with vehicles registered in certain counties will still be required to undergo emissions testing.

Sweet Creations, etc.

Gifts • Candles • Candy • Flowers

Call us now to schedule cleanings
to start off the New Year and
let us help you make it
SPARKLING CLEAN!

409•886•1630



Residential & Commercial Cleaning

Sparkling
Clean LLC


NOW HIRING
CLEANING SERVICE

409•886•1630

HOME OF THE
INCREDIBLE GARDEN
PLANT STANDS & HANGERS

Open: Mon-Sat 9 AM to 5 PM

3515 Mockingbird, Suite 1



Southeast Texas Regional Alerting & Information Network

KEEPING SOUTHEAST TEXAS INFORMED

i

ABOUT US

★

SE TEXAS R.A.I.N.

@

COUNTY
EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

DISCLAIMER: THE DATA AND INFORMATION PRESENTED BY SE TEXAS RAIN MAY NOT BE PRESENTED IN REAL TIME AND SHOULD NOT BE ASSUMED TO BE THE EXACT CONDITIONS IN YOUR AREA. NEITHER SE TEXAS RAIN NOR THE SPONSORING AGENCY ASSUMES ANY LEGAL LIABILITY OR RESPONSIBILITY OR MAKES ANY GUARANTEES OR WARRANTIES AS TO THE ACCURACY, COMPLETENESS, OR SUITABILITY OF THE INFORMATION FOR ANY PURPOSE. THE PUBLIC IS URGED TO CLOSELY MONITOR INFORMATION PROVIDED BY LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICES DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS.

QUICK LINKS

- Home
- About Us
- County Emergency Management

EMAIL US:
info@setexasrain.com

Copyright © SE Texas R.A.I.N. 2018. All Rights Reserved. Site by Verus Creations

FOR RAINFALL AMOUNTS & RIVER LEVELS VISIT US AT:

www.setexasrain.org

Why your wine glass matters- a wine scientist's advice

Ashley Vargo
Texas A&M AgriLife

Choosing the right wine glass can feel as daunting as picking the right bottle of wine, but it is one of the simplest ways to elevate your wine experience and impress your guests.

Luckily, selecting glassware doesn't need to be complicated, said Andreea Botezatu, Ph.D., an associate professor in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Horticultural Sciences and Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service enology specialist in Bryan-College Station.

"For those interested in wine or hosting friends and family for special occasions, it's worth having a set of glasses for your red, white and sparkling wines," she said. "But you don't necessarily need to be concerned about the subtler details."

Here, Botezatu spilled the secrets on what you need from each type of glass to ensure every sip brings out the best in your wine.

Red wine glasses: a large bowl for swirling

Red wines are all about oxygen and aroma. Botezatu said these wines contain the most tannins, which are chemical compounds found in many fruits and vegetables that add a touch of astringency — or a drying, rough sensation in your mouth — along with, sometimes, a little bitterness. Because of the tannin concentration, red wines taste best when swirled a bit to allow for aeration, softening the harshness and re-

leasing the wine's aromas. "A standard set of red wine glasses will generally have a larger bowl to accommodate some gentle swirling to help with the aeration," she said.

While there are glasses designed specifically for different red wine varietals, like Burgundy or Bordeaux wines, Botezatu said the distinctions are very subtle. "You would probably have to be an expert in wine tasting to actually pick up on any differences between those types of glasses," she said. "For most wine lovers, a good all-purpose red wine glass will do."

White wine glasses: a smaller bowl for delicate flavors

White wines, on the other hand, don't have as high of a concentration of tannins and don't need as much contact with air. Instead, the goal is to concentrate their more delicate aromas. Slightly smaller bowls with narrowing tops are ideal for this.

The bigger concern, Botezatu said, is temperature. White wines are best served chilled. As such, a smaller, but still standard white wine glass will do — just remember to hold the glass by the stem to avoid warming the bowl.

Sparkling wines: where personal preference plays a role

A bit more goes into choosing glasses for sparkling wines, where individual preference matters more.

Coupe: is classic



Certain glass shapes can enhance a wine experience by accentuating aspects like aromas or allowing for gentle swirling to aerate wines.

best?

Historically, the coupe glass was favored for sparkling wines. These glasses, with wide, shallow bowls, were popularized in the roaring '20s and, to some, symbolize the height of luxury and extravagance, often used in sparkling wine towers.

Despite their vintage appeal, coupe glasses won't be best if you're looking to maintain bubbles in your sparkling wine. Botezatu said the large open surface of a coupe leads you to lose effervescence very quickly. For some, that might be an advantage, as it creates a gentler feeling on the palate and allows for more subtle aromas in the wine to shine through. She'd recommend it if your go-to sparkling wine is a Moscato d'Asti or Lambrusco style.

Flute: keeping the bubbly bubbling

In contrast, the flute glass, with a narrow, tube-

like shape often associated with toasts at New Year's parties and weddings, is much better at maintaining bubbles. However, its narrow top puts it at a disadvantage for aromas. As such, Botezatu said it's best for sparkling wines like

Prosecco, where effervescence and freshness are the main attractions.

Tulip: modern refinement mixed with classic elegance

At the intersection of the coupe and flute is the tulip glass shape, which Botezatu said is often overlooked. It has a wider bowl at the bottom that tapers at the top, striking a balance between preserving bubbles and enhancing aromas. This is what Botezatu said is her top pick when serving high-quality sparkling wines like Champagne.

"You want a glass that really helps with the development of those aromas, and that would be your tulip glass," she says. "The tulip allows Champagne's signature bread, creamy notes to shine while maintaining a softer effervescence than the flute."

And if you're looking for a single glass that works for everything sparkling, the tulip is Botezatu's recommendation. So, this year, consider raising a tulip-shaped glass and savoring your wine in a style backed by science.

Captain Chuck From Page 1B

amazing fishing and the crazy thing is that it can be so predictable.

One winter on Sabine we keyed in on a small stretch of shoreline that had 6 or 8 drains and small ditches where water entered and exited the marsh. While wading we could feel the temperature difference in the water on the outgoing tides and that was all we needed to know as we started to put the pieces of the puzzle together. Soon we were in one of those

freak stretches where you could do no wrong and you felt every cast was going to produce another big fish.

Two of the biggest trout I ever caught came from some of the worst looking water I ever fished so you can understand why I believe that you can have success even when the water color or clarity is not the best. Once you get over the mental hang up associated with the thought of "I can't see in this water so there

must not be any fish here" you will undoubtedly become a better fisherman.

Fort Worth From Page 1B

Worth had an estimated 7.7% population increase, compared to Austin's 2.6% population increase over the same period.

Another population analysis by Smart Asset showed New Braunfels and three other Central Texas

cities had among the highest population growth rates in the entire U.S. over the past year. New Braunfels, Georgetown, Atascocita and Conroe were listed among the top ten cities with the highest population increases.

Reliable Dry Cleaners
...AND LAUNDRY

Mon. - Fri. 7 a.m. - 6 p.m. •
Sat. 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.

We appreciate serving you in the old year... and look forward to serving you in the New Year!

3011 Sixteenth St. Orange, TX 883-0355	1311 Green Ave. Orange, TX 883-3555	1415 Main St. Vidor, TX 769-7021	2230 Texas Ave. Bridge City, TX 735-7313
--	---	--	--

Edward Jones > edwardjones.com | Member SIPC

Cheers to a new year!

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

Karen D Collier, AAMS™, CRPC™
Financial Advisor

1815 Texas Ave
PO Box 237
Bridge City, TX 77611
409-735-9413

MKT-9811E-A AECSPAD 23940867

PESTCO
Professional Pest Control Inc.

RESIDENTIAL • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL • MARINE

FREE ESTIMATES!

TERMITES
ROACHES
FLEAS
RATS & MICE

SPIDERS
ANTS
BEES/WASPS
MOSQUITO CONTROL

Eliminate what bugs you with our Mosquito Control Treatments... and enjoy your backyard again!

Locally Owned Serving the Entire SEB Area

VIDOR 409-769-4050	ORANGE 409-886-4248
BEAUMONT 409-866-8870	NEDERLAND 409-722-9889

THE RECORD

- Just \$10 for a 30 word ad in both papers and on the web
- Classified Newspaper Deadline: Mondays @ 5 pm
- You can submit your ad ANYTIME @ TheRecordLive.com

Community Classifieds

409•886•7183

Your ads published in both newspapers,
the County Record & the Penny Record,
plus on our web site @ TheRecordLive.com

Penny Record & County Record Offices now located at:
333 West Roundbunch, Bridge City, 77611

NOTE: Offices closed on Wednesday

APPLIANCES

HARRY'S APPLIANCES - Used appliances starting at \$99.95, 302 10th. St. (10th. & main) Orange, We also buy used appliances, Call or come by 409-886-4111.

FOR RENT

House for Rent now: a 3 BR, 1 BA, w/ a 2 car garage at 435 Texas Ave., \$1400 monthly w/ \$1000 deposit. Please call 409-735-6659

1 Bedroom trailer for lease in quiet park. New flooring, new stove and new fridgerator. W/D hook-ups. Rent includes all bills: electricity, water, yard maintenance, cable and wifi. Must pass background check. 1 year lease, \$975 deposit and \$975 month. Bayou Pines Mobile Home Community at 19603 Hwy. 62 S. #37, Orange, Texas 77630 (between Like New Automotive and Winfree Baptist Church) Call or text 409-203-5952

RV SPACE FOR RENT

RV Space available. High and dry, private property off Hwy 87 N. \$350 for 30 amp, \$400 for 50 amp. Price includes water, sewer and electricity. Call 409-779-1492

NOTICE: Vehicle stored at Gilbeaux's Towing and Transport Inc. 058449 VSF 16527 Hwy 62 S. Orange, TX 77630 PH (409) 886-0007

Total charges cannot be computed until the vehicle is claimed, storage charges will accrue daily until the vehicle is released. Must demonstrate proof of ownership and pay current charges to claim vehicle!!
www.tdlr.texas.gov

2022 WABASH TRL
VIN #: 1JJV532D2NL314464
OWED \$95,937.22
2022 VOLVO TRK
VIN #: 4VANC9EH9KN906853
OWED \$97,067.22
2022 WABASH TRL
VIN #: 1JJV532D0ML195442
OWED \$97,067.22

American Legion Post 49
409-886-1241
Hall Rental



BUSINESS CARD LISTINGS

You can advertise your business, services or craft here for only \$25.00 a week.

Contact us at ads@therecordlive.com or call at 409•886•7183

ORANGE'S OLDEST HOMETOWN APPLIANCE DEALER
SINCE 1963
HARRY'S APPLIANCE & SERVICE, INC.
• FREEZERS • DISHWASHERS
• REFRIGERATORS • WASHERS & DRYERS
• RANGES • AIR CONDITIONERS
We sell parts for all major brands - We service what we sell!
FREE LOCAL DELIVERY 409.886.4111 302 10th St. Orange

CONCRETE SERVICES
Residential & Commercial
FREE ESTIMATES
409•724•2188
Driveways & Parking Lots

COASTAL LANDSCAPE SERVICES
Landscaping • Lawn Maintenance
409-738-2070
Quality Landscaping At Affordable Prices
2899 W. Roundbunch Orange TX

- General Landscapes
- Tropical Landscapes
- Spring/Fall Clean Ups
- Lawn Maintenance
- Palm Trees Installed
- Grass Installation
- Tree Removal
- 8 Yard Loads Delivered
- 60/40 Sand/Garden Mix
- Driveway Materials

Stakes Electric
COMMERCIAL • RESIDENTIAL
OLD HOMES • LED UPGRADES
ALL UNDERGROUND
409-749-4873
Licensed
Customer: #25151 Master: #14161

Residential & Commercial Cleaning
Sparkling Clean LLC
CLEANING SERVICE
409-886-1630
3515 Mockingbird, Suite D, Pinehurst

Mobile Home Lots
RV's Welcome
Bayou Pines
Mobile Home Community
www.bayou-pines.com
19603 Hwy 62 S. Orange, TX 77630
(409) 203•5952