

County Record

Vol. 65 No. 27

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Week of Wednesday, December 4, 2024

County looks to make same contracts with cities

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

For decades, Orange County has contracted with the local cities and public school districts to provide the county's Road and Bridge Department to repair streets and parking lots. Now, county commissioners court is trying to come up with a contract that will be the same for all the entities.



Orange County Judge John Gothia

As individual contracts with the entities have come up for renewal recently, commissioners said they wanted to review the contracts. Usually for the school districts, the work involves repaving parking lots and short roads on a school campus. The individual district will pay the costs for the road materials used and sometimes other costs.

The county does some roadwork in the smallest

cities like Rose City and Pine Forest, along with some stretches of city-maintained public streets. The philosophy has been that the property owners in incorporated areas pay the same county property taxes as those who live outside city limits.

County Judge John Gothia said the commissioners court wants to make

COUNTY Page 2A

Toy Coffee to make Christmas brighter for area youth

STAFF REPORT
For The Record

The Service League of Orange's 68th Annual Toy Coffee takes place 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Thursday at 803 6th St. in Orange. This beautiful Victorian home was built in 1906 and is owned by Bruce and Robyn Hunt. It is a 4,290 square-foot single family home, with pine wood floors throughout, a Mahogany wood staircase, several fireplaces, a large foyer, formal dining and living, parlors, study, a large kitchen and pantry, three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Admission to tour this

home, decorated for the holidays, is a new, unwrapped toy or money donation for the Salvation Army of Orange County Angel Tree project to help families in need during the holidays.

"It's our honor to host the Toy Coffee for the 68th year to assist the Salvation Army in making sure the children of Orange County experience Joy on Christmas morning," said Service League president Emily Mellen.

Sherry Stalnaker is the chair of this year's event, with Tricia Stroud and Rita Ballard acting as co-chairs.

TOY COFFEE Page 3A



Little Kendria Love couldn't wait. When Santa and Mrs. Claus rode up to West Orange City Hall in a red fire truck, the youngster ran to hug them. It was all part of the traditional Christmas tree lighting ceremony and community celebration held Monday evening. Mayor Randy Branch had the honor of lighting the tree as Emerald Salter sparkled in a star sweater for the occasion. Judge Carl Thibodeaux went inside to read A Cajun Night Before Christmas with Evie and Hanna Garcia watching along with other children and parents.

Holiday festivals abound Mauriceville celebrates on Thursday

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The Mauriceville Heritage Association will have their annual Christmas Tree Lighting Thursday, December 5, beginning at 6 p.m. at the Community Center, 7441 Cohenour Road.

The free event is open to the public and includes a vendor market, holiday shopping, live music, photos with Santa Clause, plus hot chocolate and cookies.

A rain-out date has been set for Thursday, December 12, at 6 p.m. at the Community Center. More information is available through www.crawfishbash.com.

A number of other events are set for this coming week.

Bridge City

The city of Bridge City is sponsoring Christmas in the Park from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, December 6, at the park off West Roundbunch Road. Food trucks, vendors, and music will be at the free event that will include

STAFF REPORT
For The Record

The Vidor Police Department has become the first agency in Southeast Texas to be awarded the Law Enforcement Accreditation through the Texas Police Chiefs Association.

VPD Chief Rod Carroll said the department began



Evie and Hanna Garcia enjoy the annual reading of Cajun Night Before Christmas read by Carl Thibodeaux at the traditional Christmas tree lighting ceremony in West Orange. RECOED PHOTO: Margaret Toal

the lighting of the community Christmas tree. Reverse Santa will be there. Kids of all ages can get a picture with Santa in exchange for a new, un-

wrapped toy to be donated to the Bridge City-Orangefield Ministerial Alliance to give to families who need help during the holiday.

The Bridge City Cham-

ber of Commerce's 15th Annual Lighted Christmas Parade will start at 6 p.m. This year the family of the late A.J. Judice will be honored as grand marshals with the parade theme of Christmas on the Bayou. The parade will begin at First Baptist Church on West Roundbunch Road and head northward to the area by Bridge City Intermediate School.

Orange

Shangri La Botanical Gardens on Park Avenue will have lighted Christmas strolls on Tuesdays through Saturdays from 6 to 9 p.m. beginning this week through December 21. The tours are free, but people are asked to bring a non-perishable food item to donate to Orange Christian Services. Special senior mobility and sensory-sensitive tours will be offered each evening from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. with no flashing lights, no music, and smaller crowds.

HOLIDAY Page 3A

Vidor police gets chiefs accreditation

the accreditation process in May 2021 to meet some 182 best business practices required by the program.

It took nearly three and a half years before they learned they had met the criteria for the voluntary accreditation.

Chief Carroll said the Texas Police Chiefs Association started the accredita-

tion program in 2006. The criteria include a number of law enforcement guidelines for things like use of force, protection of individual rights, protection of citizen rights, vehicle pursuits, property and evidence management, plus patrol and investigation operations.

The department con-

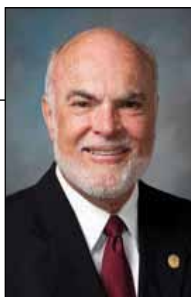
ducted and internal review of practices and then hand an outsider go through the steps before the state group reviewed the procedures and practices.

Police chiefs chosen from different areas of the state went through Vidor's processes and awarded the prestigious accreditation.

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My Five-Cents

A monthly column from Sen. Robert Nichols by Sen. Robert Nichols, Senate District 3



Last week we celebrated one of my favorite holidays, Thanksgiving. Enjoyed food, family, and football – including the return of a historic in-state rivalry.

Here are five things happening around your state:

1. Comptroller announces awards for broadband programs

The Broadband Development Office (BDO) announced it has notified the first wave of awardees for its Bringing Online Opportunities to Texas (BOOT) II program. This represents \$580 million in funding that will connect almost 80,000 locations to high-speed broadband in 15 counties across the state. The BOOT II program is funded in part by federal Coronavirus Capital Projects Fund and by the state's Broadband Infrastructure Fund. The BDO identified two counties in each of the Comptroller's 12 economic regions that demonstrated a high-level of need, measured by percentage of unserved or underserved broadband locations. This program will ensure that eligible locations in those counties will receive internet service at speeds of 100/20 Mbps – the federal definition for broadband service. Three counties in Senate

District 3 were included in the program: Liberty, Newton, and Trinity Counties. The BDO will post awardee information on their website once agreements have been signed.

2. Temple Foundation President, CEO named new Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board commissioner

This month, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) announced Dr. Wynn Rosser as the new Commissioner of Higher Education. Dr. Rosser previously served as President and CEO of the T.L.L. Temple Foundation, an East Texas-based organization dedicated to building up rural East Texas communities and alleviating poverty. During his time at the Temple Foundation, Dr. Rosser continued the foundation's commitment to education, healthcare, and regional community development, and community resilience in East Texas. In his new position, he will oversee initiatives at THECB that equip students to enter the workforce, enable more students to access higher education, and build a stronger Texas economy. I would like to thank

Dr. Rosser for his incredible work at the Temple Foundation and wish him success as he moves forward at the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

3. Lufkin High School band wins third straight state title

The Lufkin High School Band has once again claimed a state title. This is the third win in a row for the band which performs in the military marching style and competes in that category. Military Marching is a traditional straight-line style of marching, and everyone moves in a forward direction. This differs from the corps style, in which the band generally always faces the front. Most modern-day marching bands perform in the corps style, however the largest notable military-style marching band in the nation is here in Texas at Texas A&M University. The National Association of Military Marching Bands (NAMMB) has traditionally sponsored the state contest. However, in 2020 the University Interscholastic League (UIL) decided to try hosting a Military Marching Band contest. The Panther Band won UIL state titles in 2021, 2023, and 2024 (no contest was held in 2022). Previously, the Panther Band also won NAMMB state titles in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, and 2019. Lufkin High School Band has a winning tradition, congratulations on your continued success!

4. Entergy awarded \$54 million in federal funds to enhance grid resilience

Entergy Texas was awarded nearly \$54 million in federal funding this month in a bid to enhance grid resilience particularly in the Port Arthur area. Entergy will focus the funding on a project aimed to help lessen the impact of future extreme weather events in the coastal community. The funding comes from the Department of Energy's Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program, funded through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The GRIP program is aimed at enhancing the power grid and making it more resilient in the face of extreme weather.

5. DPS announces new leadership

This month, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) announced a new director, Senior Deputy Director Freeman F. Martin. Earlier this year, current Director Steve McCraw announced his intention to retire by year-end. The Public Safety Commission (PSC) gathered this month and approved the selection of Deputy Director Martin. Martin has been with DPS since 1990, when he started as a Texas Highway Patrol (THP) Trooper in Winnie. Over the past thirty plus years, he has served as THP Corporal, Narcotics Service Sergeant in Houston, and a Texas Ranger Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain, and Major in several cities across the state. He later was appointed Deputy Director of Homeland Security Operations by the PSC and promoted to Lieutenant Colonel in 2018. He will be sworn in at a ceremony on December 2.

County business From Page 1

sure all the entities are having the same contract and paying the same rates. Also, court members want a way to assure county roads are given priority before city streets.

He said some cities have bigger street departments than the county. Also, the county has such a big backlog of roads under county jurisdiction to complete, those roads should take a priority.

The commissioners held a special workshop on the subject Tuesday, but took no action. Precinct 1 Commissioner Johnny Trahan, who has had recent health problems, was absent, though he attended the meeting two weeks earlier.

During the regular com-

missioners court meeting after the workshop, the court agreed to spend \$1,232 for extra help in the tax office during the peak season when property taxes are paid. County Tax Assessor-Collector Octavia Guzman said the department usually gets an extra worker during that time. Someone retired from the tax office will be used as the temporary hire, so no training will be needed.

Property tax statements were mailed in November. The taxes are due by January 31. Homeowners age 65 and older may sign a form to pay their property taxes in four payments rather than the full amount in January.

The largest single bill

payment commissioners approved was for \$650,055 to T Construction for drainage improvement projects paid through federal and state hurricane recovery grants.

Other bill payments approved included \$36,696 from the general fund to Silsbee Toyota for a 2024 Toyota Tacoma truck to be used by the health and code department. Also, \$27,10 from the general fund to Kommercial Kitchen for a Vulcan tilting skillet and installation in the jail. \$21,653 from the general fund to the University of Texas Medical Branch as the monthly payment for health care services.

Also, \$18,984 from the general fund to Pellerin

Laundry Machinery for a washing machine for the jail. \$1,150 from the general fund to Dorman Funeral Home for indigent funeral expenses. \$516 to Claybar Funeral Home for indigent funeral expenses. \$60,404 from the road and bridge fund to Silsbee Ford for a 2023 Ford F250 pickup truck. \$9,000 from the hotel-motel tax fund to the Orange County Economic Development Corporation for the Placer.ai annual license. \$17,925 from the special grants fund to Lark Group for demolition work on several properties. \$34,312 from the general fund to the Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission as the county's annual dues.

The Record Newspapers of Orange County, Texas

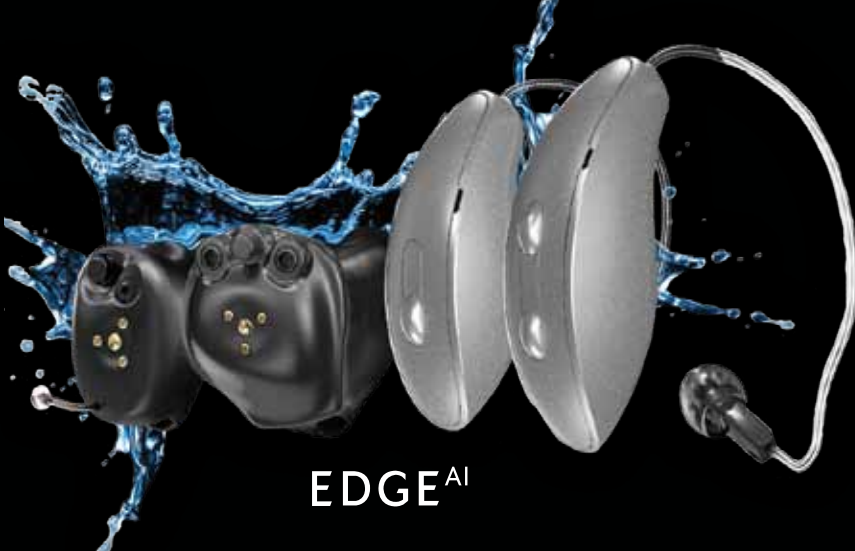
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Toy Coffee From Page 1



The decorated fireplace in the home of Bruce and Robyn Hunt is just one of the many Christmas delights to see at the 68th Toy Coffee. The event takes place 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Thursday at 803 6th St. in Orange. Admission is an unwrapped, new toy or a cash donation.

RECORD PHOTO: Tricia Stroud

There will be golf carts on site to shuttle people back and forth to their cars.

Once the tour is completed, refreshments will be served.

Several schools in the county have toy drives with students delivering them to the Toy Coffee each year. Stroud stated last year's event raised \$13,595 and 556 toys, with 397 visitors.

"Times are challenging for many families and this is truly a season for us all to pull together and help our neighbors," said Stroud. "Some families are on the receiving end this year when they are normally on the giving season. I think that's important to recognize."

The Service League of Orange provides several charitable, health, and education services to Orange County. Besides the tradition of the Toy Coffee, they also run the gift shop located at the Baptist Hospital outpatient center and every three years, they host the Follies.

Mellen also spoke about the Salvation Army's Angel Trees, which is another way to help if you cannot attend the Toy Coffee Thursday.

"With the closing of International Paper and Invista, who adopted many Angels each year, there is a great need for folks to claim an Angel Tree kid so our Orange County kids can have a Christmas. If you're interested in adopting an Angel Tree kid, go to the Orange, BC, or Vidor Walmarts to take a tag off of those trees, or call their Angel Tree Hotline (409-233-8506) or Bonnie (409-291-98400) at The Salvation Army Orange TX to get one/say how many you'd like. Needs/gifts are due back to the Salvation Army by December 11th."

OC Retired Teachers and school personnel to meet

The Orange County Retired Teachers will meet at Wesley United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall located at 401 N. 37th St. in Orange on Monday, Dec. 9th at 10:30 a.m.

Sandra Dickey will present a special reading of "Cajun Night Before Christmas" for their Christmas program. Bring your favorite dish for a covered dish luncheon.

They are collecting canned goods for the Women's Care Center in Vidor. Any canned goods you can bring would be appreciated.

All Orange County retired teachers and school personnel are invited to attend. Invite prospective first time members to sign up for a free lunch and free membership dues in TRTA and OCTRA.

They should sign up by the Dec. 9 meeting to be assured of space at the meeting which will be held Dec. 11 at Roberts Steakhouse in Orange. Participation helps keep the local and state organizations strong.



Carl Thibodeaux reads A Cajun Night Before Christmas during the 2024 Christmas Tree at West Orange City Hall and Community Center.

RECORD PHOTO: Margaret Toal

Holiday festivals abound From Page 1

Free State Cellars Winery will be selling beverages, and the Orange Lions Club will sell hot chocolate and cookies. Last year, nearly 55,000 people went through the gardens during the lighted strolls.

The Orange Kiwanis Club is having Breakfast with Santa from 7:30 to 10 a.m. Saturday, December 7, at Spanky's on 16th Street. Tickets are \$12 with proceeds going to help Kiwanis community projects. The price includes breakfast plus a visit and photo with Santa. Tickets are available at Spanky's, through Kiwanis members, or on the Orange Kiwanis Facebook page.

Downtown Orange will be rockin' for Christmas

on Saturday. The city is sponsoring the Gum Drop Shop in Stark Park along Green Avenue from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Vendors will be offering a variety of items perfect for gifts or decorating. Food trucks and entertainment will also be at the free event.

The 1894 W.H. Stark House, on the east side of Stark Park, will be open from noon to 5 p.m. for a Stark Family Christmas. Buddy the Elf will be in Stark Park from 1 to 7 p.m. for people to pose for photos. The Stark Museum of Art, across Green Avenue from the park, will have free children's holiday crafts from 3 to 5 p.m.

The Orange Kiwanis Club is sponsoring the 75th Annual Christmas

Parade in downtown beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday. The theme this year is Red, White, and You. The parade staging area is on Front Street behind the Lutchter Theater. From there, the parade will go west on Front to Tenth Street, then right on Tenth Street to Green Avenue. At Green the parade will turn right and go east-bound on Green to First Street. The route will then turn right, or southbound on First, before turning west on Front Street to go back to the staging area.

After the parade, the city will have a tree lighting ceremony in Stark Park along with pictures with Santa. A free outdoor screening of the animated film "Mickey's Christmas

Carol" will then be presented.

On Sunday, December 8, Heritage House Museum, 901 Division Avenue, will have Santa Paws from 1 to 3 p.m. on the back deck. Santa Claus will pose with pets and people. Pet photographer Lacey Hale will do pictures for a \$10 donation to the museum, which works to preserve Orange County history and artifacts. From 6 to 8 p.m. Sunday, the 1902 J.O. Sims House will be decorated for the season with free family tours. Santa will visit with children in the parlor. Santa has been a tradition at the museum for nearly 50 years.



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From the Creaux's Nest

REMEMBERING
PEARL HARBOR, DEC. 7, 1943

I was a youngster when Pearl Harbor was attacked by the Japanese. I recall sitting next to the old radio with family and neighbors listening to President Franklin D. Roosevelt address the nation about the attack. My aunt was saying her Rosary. She was praying for her son who was at Pearl Harbor. It turned out he had been severely injured when a lifeboat crashed down on him when his ship was hit. He recovered after a long hospital stay only to be killed later in a farming accident. My thoughts also turn to my old friend, Cedric Stout, a Pearl Harbor survivor, who was on the Utah. (Cedric passed away Jan. 17, 2024, at age 103.) We got to visit with him and wife Cherry often. I wonder how she is doing I love those old vets from the Greatest Generation. Too many are leaving us way too fast. ****Jim Molley, Sr., 94, died Nov. 24, 2014. Jim went into the Army Air Corps in 1942 and was stationed at Oahu, Hawaii during the Pearl Harbor attack. I had known the entire Molley family since the late 1940's going back to Jim's dad Joe, Sr. and his mother Victoria. I was often a guest at the old Molley home later occupied by Jim and Gloria and brother Joe "Fats" and wife Mildred. The Molleys were a colorful family. In my head I have a lot of great stories. Jim was the quiet, industrious one, Joe Sr. and Joe Jr. were the flashy ones. Jim's passing marked the end of a special era. A pioneer Italian family who lived many stories. Looking back is like going to a movie for me.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN WRONG NOT TO PARDON HUNTER

For over two years the Primetime gang on Fox News tried Hunter Biden over and over every night, most of their pitch hogwash and often rebuffed. President Trump even contacted the President of Ukraine and threatened to withhold money if he didn't come up with some dirt on Hunter and his dad. The phone call is locked up in a vault. Now is a good time to make it public. In Trump's first administration, half of his cabinet was indicted or went to prison, the other half cast him as being a buffoon, idiotic or just plain crazy. He pardoned many, including his daughter's father-in-law, who will be Ambassador to France. He has also promised to pardon all the January 6 actors who invaded the Capital. Trump himself will not have to serve a day in jail, voters pardoned him by voting for him. Some now are blaming President Joe Biden for pardoning his only son Hunter. Why Biden might have decided to tarnish his legacy and renege on his vows not to intervene could be Trump's repeated vows for revenge against his political enemies and his immediate moves to put political loyalists like Kash Patel in charge of federal law enforcement. People who would have few qualms about pursuing additional charges against his son for alleged crimes ranging from illegal foreign lobbying to sex trafficking plus the treatment they would have allowed while he was in prison. Former AG Eric Holder, who claimed that no federal prosecutor "would have charged this case given the underlying facts," and former DOJ official Anthony Coley, who said, "Biden was right to do it. Trump is putting in place the pieces to weaponize the DOJ. Why would Biden leave his only surviving son exposed in that way?" If anyone who voted for Trump and claims Biden was wrong, are lying when they say they would not pardon their son under the same conditions.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2014

Cosby Stock Tumbles. Regardless of what happens next in the Bill Cosby allegations his body of work over the years is tainted. The backlash due to the resurgence of public accusations by multiple women that Cosby drugged and sexually assaulted them, going back decades, will continue to grow. Cosby, through his lawyers, denied the allegations. Cosby saying "he wouldn't answer to innuendoes" will start to ring hollow. The accusations against an American comedy icon is shocking and sad. Cosby is facing numerous cancellations. One of his last half-dozen shows was here in Orange. Bill and his wife Camille have donated millions to schools and hospitals over the years. Society's evolving notions about sexual assault is heavy baggage for Cosby that just won't wash away. His reputation is long gone never to return and that's a shame. Bill Cosby and his wife Camille live near Philadelphia. The comedian, now 84, is legally blind and hopes to revamp his career, but maintains his innocence. His estimated worth is \$400 million. **** The Atlanta Falcons defeated the Cardinals 29-18 Sunday. Branta City's Matt Bryant accounted for 17 of the points, with five field goals and two extra points. He didn't miss on any. **** Sen. Robert Nichols and his assistants spent Monday night in Orange. They attended a Lion's Club meeting, had breakfast with Orange County mayors, attended a Rotary Club meeting and stopped by The

Record office for a visit and update on new legislation and the new Lt. Governor. It has been a long time since a senator, other than Nichols, spent even one day in Orange, much less two.

20 Years Ago-2004

Judge Joe Parkhurst and Judge Pete Runnels are happy campers after their school, Sam Houston, came from behind with seconds to go beating Eastern Washington 35-34. PNG's, Dustin Long, threw a pass to Jason Matthews to tie the game. The extra point won the game as time ran out. ****Kenneth Smith and Danny Brack, from K-Dan's, caters the large Bobby Cormier Oilfield Supply and Double AA Glass annual Christmas party feed. Over 300 were fed. Bobby said, "You know it's a good catering when Joe Burke shows up." (Editor's note: Joe and Mr. Paul are no longer with us.) ****GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN: Former Bridge City resident Roy Gene Rogers, named for movie actors Roy Rogers and Gene Autry, died at age 64, in Plano, on Dec. 2. While living and working as a policeman in Bridge City Roy did a lot of youth work.

45 Years Ago-1979

Larry Kennan head football coach at Lamar produces a winning season. **** Denise Guyote recently completed the Air Force's technical training. She is a graduate of Keesler Air Force Base. She served her basic training at Lackland Air Force Base. She is assigned to Hill Air Force Base in Utah. She is a graduate of Bridge City High School. ****Doug Ardoin is recovering from two bypass heart surgery at St. Elizabeth. (Editor's note: Doug was later killed in an auto accident.) ****The West Orange-Stark Mustangs of Coach Steve McCarty dropped a hard fought 12-7 bi-district game to Baytown Lee Saturday in the Astrodome, ending their hopes for a state championship. They ended the season 8-2-1. Nothing to be ashamed of. ****Margaret and Tony Giarratano celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Tony took her for quite a ride over the years. ****Ed Lovelace, formerly "Mr. Orange," with KOGT is now the owner of two radio stations, KIBLAM and KCW-FM in Beeville. (Editor's note: Those stations were very successful and made Ed and Joan very rich but they lost everything after an employee accidentally killed a lady in a company car. Her family was awarded \$6 million. They even took Ed's ring off his finger.)

50 Years Ago-1974

Elaine Meyers is the attractive young lady in Gunn's Studio ad. ****Lawyer Louis Dugas, our friend and former state representative, district attorney and judge, will celebrate a birthday Dec. 12. He is now in his mid-40's. (Editor's note: Today that would be mid-90's.) ****Bicentennial commissioner Roy Wingate makes announcements. The DAR Chapter has adopted a project to locate the grave of Revolutionary Army war veteran James Adams, who is reportedly buried in Orange County. The Heritage category is under the supervision of Ken Armstrong, Mrs. Fred Trimble and Jane Dorman. Marlin Shelton, Larry Gunter and Jules David will be in charge of Horizon activities. ****Elaine Hollier of Bridge City has been selected as a member of the U.S. Olympic Women's Handball squad. ****West Orange basketball team members are John James, Alvin Anderson, Bohn Dorman, Don Sargent and Andre Robertson. The coach is Jim Weaver.

A LITTLE ABOUT THE NATIVES

Everyone's friend, former State representative, local lawyer and rancher Wayne Peveto, has been in St. Elizabeth hospital and came home this week. I recall when Wayne passed his Tax Bill. Representative Lloyd Dogget, who is now a United States congressman brought the El Paso newspaper that had a big headline asking "What is a Peveto?" During those days Buddy Temple served in the House and also owned the Veranda where the Capital crowd gathered while in Austin. Wayne stayed with an appellate courts judge. Those were fun days. Wayne accomplished a lot. By the way, Micky Litton was his right hand in Austin. She and Karl Rove served at the same time. He became Bush's brain. We wish Wayne the best in his recovery. ****Our buddy, the Mayor of Starks, Rene' Hanks turned 90 on Dec. 5. He married pretty Lucy many years ago. She celebrates a week later on Dec. 12 but is much younger. Someone needs to give these fine folks a party. ****Our friends Tommy and Sue Simar, celebrate 36 years of marriage on Dec. 4. He picked her up in Yankee country for a visit and she never left. Best wishes for good health and some good years. ****Our buddy here at The Record, Margaret Toal, had eye surgery. Her daughter Kate came down from New York to help and spend time at Thanksgiving. Margaret had the blinders taken off Monday and should be back to feature writing. ****Speaking of Thanksgiving, the gathering this year was at Jim Sharon and Cassie Bearden's place. The youngest kids Bodie and Krewe's three year old pet Lama wanted to meet their famous granddad, so it just barged in to everyone's surprise. By the way, Sharon's oldest son Tyler turned 53 this week. It doesn't seem that long ago that Sharon's boys were on the LCM baseball field.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

The holiday season is in full swing and Lady Whistlebreaux is busy trying to keep up with all the activities. There's no way anyone could complain that nothing goes on in Orange County. Thanksgiving brought lots of travel, families, and a traditional Longhorn-Aggie game. It's for certain the retired Judge Pat Clark was celebrating the UT win. Orange City Councilor Brad Childs isn't as happy. He and wife Terri went back to his alma mater to see the big game in College Station. They also made it to the Texas Renaissance Festival. ****Paula and Randy Ragsdale gathered for the feast day at the McClelland family's place on Cow Creek. ****Debbie Hughes not only celebrated a birthday, she got a long visit from daughter Dr. Kayla Cheek, husband, Nick Cheek, and their little ones Kenzie and Ian. ****Patricia Kemp traveled to Columbia, Missouri, to be with

family, Eric Ellison went up in the mountains to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, but made it back home in time for the feast. ****Dana and Tommy Mann took in the fun of the Renaissance Festival. ****Carly Thibodeaux went to Galveston for the weekend with the trip including a bike ride on the seawall. ****Steve and Gail Maddox stayed in Texas for their latest long trip. All the way to the Big Bend and Fort Davis, where they partied with the stars at the famous observatory. ****Brandi Griggs and crew headed for sites in San Antonio. ****Ida Schossow went to Houston to see the classic Nutcracker ballet.

Lots of people were having Thanksgiving pie and birthday cake this past week. ****Over the weekend, our gal Penny LeLeux went to Canton's First Monday to do a little Christmas shopping. It was a girl's trip that has been going on for five years with mostly teachers and retired teachers from Bridge City and Orange. This was Penny's second year to join the group. Her niece-in-law, Tara Vidrine, organizes the trip each year. They rent an air b&b that is filled with bunkbeds that will sleep 20. There were 11 ladies in attendance this year. They shopped til they dropped and snapped up lots of bargains. ****The annual Service League Toy Coffee is Thursday. Bring an unwrapped toy or cash donation to tour the home at 803 6th Street in Orange. They always do an amazing job and all the toys and cash donations benefit the Salvation Army in Orange to bring a more joyful Christmas to Orange County families in need. ****Orange Retired Teacher and school personnel to meet Dec. 9 at 10:30 a.m. at Wesley United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall located a 401 N. 37th St. for their Christmas program. Sandra Dickey will give a special reading of "Cajun Night Before Christmas." They will also be collection canned goods for The Women's Care Center in Vidor. Bring your favorite dish for a covered dish luncheon. ****Although Judge Pat Clark and Attorney H.D. Pate were loyal country music fans, Pate was really the expert. They used to discuss different artists, but Hank Williams was always the Judge's favorite. H.D. is gone now and despite all our many fights, I really do miss him. ****Special thanks to Van Choate for our Thanksgiving turkey, arranged and cooked by Robert's Meat Market and Girl Friday Tina.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days. Dec. 4: Dana Simmons, Gwen Tallant, Stephanie Kreger. ****Dec. 5: Rene Hanks turns 90. Someone need to give the Mayor of Starks a party. Belinda Force, Rory Piccone, Shea Bolton, Steve Hightower. ****Dec. 6: Woody Carter, Cheryl Jones, Barbara Cartwright, Lois Cornwell, Richard Briggs, Emily Mangham, Michelle Potter. ****Dec. 7: Pearl Harbor Day. Celebrating are Jim Keith, Tracey Gilliam, Buddy Sheppard, Randy Philpott. ****Dec. 8: Channing Larkin, C.R. Dick Davis, Samantha Peveto. ****Dec. 9: Barry McKenzie, Bobby Couthran, Elissa Kern, Jay Fuss, Sharon Johnson. ****Dec. 10: David Claybar, Michelle Watson, Shelly Motts, Bonnie Hopperton, Sean Ureta, Monica Placette, Cindy Briggs, Kari Piccone. ****Others blowing out candles on a cake included Barry Burton, Karen Colburn, Jasmine Brown, Chay King, Mason Grizzaffi, Steve Johnson, Ricky Jacobs, Dan Perrine, Judge Courtney Burch-Arkeen, Betty Smith Vail (we're hoping she feels better), Gerald Burleigh, Billy Jones, Ben Wernig, Shonnalee Converse, Teresa Martin, Ken Sury, Linda Lee Melton, Ricky Blagburn, Carrie Woliver, and Matt Purgahn. ****Happy Anniversary to Tommy and Sue Simar who will be married 36 years on Dec. 4. ****Keith and Cinda Perry celebrated another wedding anniversary passing the half century mark. ****Trey and Amie Smith had their eighth anniversary. To publish birthdays or anniversaries free of charge call 409-886-7183 or email news@therecordlive.com

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Joe Comeaux, him, he was attempting to build a patio for the first time. He buy hisself 100 of dem. cement block. Den he lay dem out in a pattern. Mais, den he find out de space he fix up was too small. So Comeaux him, stack dem block by his house and clean up some more space.

Da nex' day, Joe, him, he put da cement block back down befor' he notice the ground was unlevel. So he buy him a load of sand and stack dem block against his house again. Fo' tree days Comeaux move dem block.

Te' Man Breaux watch dis all dat time and he wonder, "Me, I'm gonna aks dat crazy Cajun abo't dat."

De nex' day he lean over da fence and say, "Hey, Joe, you gonna put you patio away every night hanh?"

C'EST TOUT UNDER TRUMP ACA'S FUTURE UNCERTAIN

In July 2017, Sen. John McCain, the maverick Republican from Arizona, was undergoing treatment for brain cancer. It would take his life in little more than a year. He had returned to Washington, D.C. for the Senate debate over legislation supported by President Donald Trump and congressional Republicans that would repeal the ACA. McCain's dramatic, early morning thumbs-down sent the legislation to a 51-49 defeat and saved the Affordable Care Act, often called the ACA or Obamacare. Signed into law in 2010 by President Barack Obama, the ACA is the most consequential health reform policy in the United States since the creation of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965. People who would like to choose a real and affordable health care plan have options, thanks to the ACA. Visit Health-Care.gov or call 1-800-318-2596 for enrollment information. Were it not for the thumbs-down of an American hero, millions of Americans would not have the opportunity to sign up for health coverage next year through the Affordable Care Act. ****Thanks for your time. Please shop our family of advertisers. Take care and God bless.

BCHS Foundation launches scholarship campaign

From Staff Report

Exciting news is on the horizon for Bridge City High School and its vibrant alumni community. The Bridge City High School Alumni Foundation has reached a significant milestone by becoming an official 501c3 organization. This achievement opens up new opportunities to better serve current and future alumni of Bridge City High School, ensuring that the legacy of excellence continues to thrive.

The journey to becoming a 501c3 organization is both challenging and rewarding. For the Bridge City High School Alumni Foundation, it began with a vision: "To better serve our current and future alumni of Bridge City High School."

Founding members dedicated countless hours to research and understand the intricacies of nonprofit status. They navigated through paperwork, legal requirements, and regulations that seemed daunting at first.

Support from local community members played an essential role in this process. Their encouragement is helping fuel the foundation's commitment to excellence.

One of the primary advantages is tax-exempt status. Donations received are now deductible for donors, encouraging more contributions to support future projects. Those who wish to donate receive a tax deduction for 2024 if done by December 31, fostering generosity within the community.

Grants from federal and state programs have now become accessible. These financial resources can further enhance the Foundation's initiatives that enrich the lives of students at Bridge City High School.

Being recognized as a charitable organization boosts credibility too. It reassures potential supporters that their contributions will be used effectively in targeted fields like nursing or welding programs. This trust can significantly increase donor engagement and foster lasting partnerships in the community.

Through scholarships and grants, the foundation aims to help lift some of the financial burdens on students pursuing excellence in their ongoing education. By engaging alumni and local businesses in philanthropic efforts, it seeks to create lasting partnerships that will enrich the school's programs. The vision includes not only immediate assistance but also sustainable growth for generations of Bridge City graduates.

The Bridge City High School Alumni Foundation has a remarkable track record of success stories that inspire both current students and alumni alike. Many graduates have gone on to excel in diverse fields—be it Education, Legal, Medical, Business, Philanthropy, Music, Art, or Industry and many others. One Bridge City Alumni was bestowed the National Horatio Alger Award for outstanding Americans who exemplify dedication, purpose, and perseverance in their personal

and professional lives. One standout achievement is the establishment of scholarships aimed at supporting students pursuing careers in high-demand areas like nursing and welding. These initiatives not only provide financial support but also encourage future alumni to strive for excellence.

These successes highlight the foundation's commitment to uplift those who come after them. Each story serves as a testament to its impact on fostering talent within the Bridge City community.

Making a Difference for Bridge City High School Students:

With the community's support, the foundation can better serve future alumni of Bridge City High School. Donations made before December 31, 2024, are tax-deductible for this year and will help fuel initiatives that empower students across various fields. Contributions transform lives and foster a vibrant culture where excellence thrives—continuing Bridge City's long-standing tradition.

By participating in this mission to give back through their Future Alumni Fund, donors become part of something bigger than themselves. The impact reaches far beyond financial assistance; it invests in the dreams and aspirations of countless students eager to carve their paths in life.

Any donation to the Bridge City High School Alumni Foundation is greatly appreciated. Donations can be mailed to:

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For further information, please visit: <https://www.bchsalumni.com/>

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Media Contact:
Attn: Media Relations
Bridge City, TX
Classes@BCHSAumni-
foundation.com

Deaths & Memorials

Thomas Fulton Allen Jr., 92, BC

Thomas Fulton Allen Jr., (Tommy) lived his dash 1932-2024 to the fullest for 92 Years. The line between the day we're born and the day we leave this earth. In that little dash is a lifetime of laughter, love and tears.

Tommy was born in Kosciusko, Mississippi, and moved to Port Arthur, TX at a young age. He built a home in Bridge City, TX where he lived with his wife Joycelynn Allen, and three daughters, Susan Rhodes, Ruth Lawless and Lori Dickman. He was living in the Toledo Bend area of Fairmount when he passed November 20th 2024.

He was a devoted and loving husband to his wife Joycelynn Allen for 61 Years.

He was the cherished Pawpaw of his grandchildren Trisha, Tamara, Nicole, Tee-sha, Kimberly, Candace, Cory, Callie, Cassie, and also was a proud Pawpaw of 12 great grandchildren, and 6 great-great grandchildren. He also loved all of his son-in-law's and great son-in laws.

After his graduation from Thomas Jefferson High School in Port Arthur, TX in 1951, he was drafted into the Army and served our cherished country in the Korean War.

Tommy worked most of his life at Jefferson Chemical Refinery as a dedicated ma-



Thomas Fulton Allen Jr.

chinist. Aside from his career, he was a master gardener and took pride in his yard with all of the beautiful Oak trees he planted.

He was an honest and generous man. He once said in his 92 years he never hated a single human being his entire life. That says a lot about the soul of a person.

Tommy experienced a life rich in experience and fulfillment from beginning to end and touched the lives of many people along the way.

His celebration of life will be determined at a later date.

Gum Drop Shop Holiday Market

The Explore Orange - Convention and Visitors Bureau is bringing back the Gumdrop Shop Holiday Market at Stark Park in downtown Orange, 201 7th Street, Dec. 7, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Come out and step into a world of holiday magic, where the spirit of the season comes to life in their festive market.

This enchanting event offers a delightful blend of local artisans, unique vendors, and joyful holiday entertainment. Discover unique one-of-a-kind items from local vendors that you won't find anywhere else.

Immerse yourself in a winter wonderland filled with lights, music, and the warmth of the holiday season.

By shopping at the event, you're supporting local businesses and contributing to the community. From holiday crafts, activities, and entertainment, there's something for everyone to enjoy. The Kiwanis Christmas Parade is scheduled to be held at 6:00 pm in downtown Orange following the Gumdrop Shop. Additional information may be obtained from the Convention & Visitors Bureau office at 409-883-1011.

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Take a Chance This Advent

David Mathis
Editor
desiringGod.org

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

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

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

Short and Sweet

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

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

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

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

Baby Steps for Jesus

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

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



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

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

In Our Own Hearts

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

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

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

Moving out from our

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

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

In Our World

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

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

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

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

Another Lost Opportunity?

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

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

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

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



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Advent: Slow down, appreciate Christmas

BETH SONNIER
For The Record

Advent this year began last Sunday but it's not too late to join in and take part in among one of the most meaningful traditions of the Christmas season.

While many equate Advent with calendars full of treats leading up to Christmas Day on Dec. 25, Advent is a term that comes out of Western Christianity and is the season encompassing the four Sundays (and the weekdays) leading up to the celebration of Christmas, according to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Advent started as a time for remembrance and a sign for Christians to be open and ready for the second coming of Christ and held to traditional items and events like a wreath with candles, a

large feast at the end of the four Sundays and, of course, the Advent calendar.

Here's what you should know about observing Advent, traditions of the season and more.

What is Advent?

Advent, from "adventus" in Latin meaning "coming," is the season encompassing the four Sundays and weekdays leading up to Christmas, according to Britannica.

In the Christian church calendar, Advent is a period of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas and a preparation for the Second Coming of Christ.

When is Advent?

Advent begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas each year, al-



Advent wreaths traditionally have three purple candles and one pink candle..

ways falling between Nov. 27 and Dec. 3 and ending on Christmas Eve on Dec. 24. The holiday begins the liturgical year.

This year, Advent will be observed from Sunday, Dec. 1, to Tuesday, Dec. 24.

How is Advent celebrated?

Advent symbolizes the church's present situation in these "last days," according to scripture, as God's people wait for the return of Christ. During

the holiday, the church looks back upon Christ's coming in celebration while simultaneously anticipating the coming of Christ.

To balance the remembrance and anticipation experience during the holiday, the first two Sundays

in Advent (through Dec. 8) look forward to Christ's second coming, while the last two Sundays (Dec. 15 to Dec. 22) look backward to remember Christ's first coming.

Throughout the four weeks of the holiday, scripture readings encompass Christ's return in judgment to Old Testament passages about the expectation of the coming Messiah to New Testament passages about the announcements of Christ's arrival John the Baptist and the angels. From Dec. 17 to Dec. 24, Advent focuses on preparations for the Nativity of the Lord at Christmas.

Advent is also intended to be a season of fasting, like Lent, and both holidays are symbolized by the color purple or blue. The third Sunday of Advent — known as Gaudete

ADVENT Page 4B

Purchasing Texas Christmas Trees Boosts Economy



While Christmas trees are grown in all 50 states, the Texas Christmas tree industry is notable for its large economic impact, which ranks second among southern states according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Leighton Chachere
Texas A&M Forest Service

a tree is a fun activity that supports rural economies across the state."

More than 4 million real Christmas trees are sold annually in Texas, supporting farms and agriculture businesses throughout the state. As the holiday season arrives, Texas A&M Forest Service encourages purchasing real Christmas trees to help boost the Texas economy.

Texas A&M Forest Service recently conducted an economic study showing how much value the Christmas tree industry adds to the state. In 2022, the industry generated more than \$714 million, including direct, indirect and induced economic impacts, while supporting nearly 6,000 jobs.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates the Texas Christmas tree industry ranks second in the southern U.S., based on average annual employment and wages for 2022.

"It's a tradition in many households to have a real Christmas tree," said Dr. Aaron Stottley, Texas A&M Forest Service forest analytics department head. "The process of going as a family to pick out

ally adapted Virginia pines, especially hardy and adapted to the Texas climate, to ensure that those who prefer a live tree can continue to have that Christmas experience for a very long time."

Christmas Tree Business

In the U.S., the sale of real Christmas trees has decreased since 2018, and since 2020, the sale of arti-

ficial trees has been higher than real trees. But choosing a real Christmas tree should always be considered.

Aside from being good for local economies, Raley said harvesting Christmas trees is also essential for ecosystem and forest sustainability. Stottley said the Christmas tree industry is crucial to fulfilling the trees' lifecycle, expanding trees' potential beyond their natural life and creating sustainable

forests and economies.

After the holiday season, real Christmas trees can be repurposed and recycled for many uses. Real Christmas trees can be used as landscape mulch in yards and gardens as soil erosion prevention, nest-building materials for birds and natural water habitats for fish and wildlife in ponds or lakes.

"Christmas tree farms are essentially young forests," said Stottley. "They are able to provide

us the same benefits as traditional forests by sequestering carbon, providing a natural habitat for wildlife, cleaning our water and providing recreational opportunities."

Shoppers looking for a real Christmas tree can visit the Texas Christmas Tree Growers Association website to explore the different Christmas tree farms in each Texas region.

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Santa Paws and Candle light tours ring in the holidays at Heritage House Dec. 8

Santa Paws at Heritage House Museum 1-3 p.m., Dec. 8. Pictures with Santa for all members of your family will be taken on the deck for \$10 with pet photographer Lacey Hale.

Candle light tours of Heritage House will take place later that day 6-8 p.m. Experience the history and magic of the holidays with their candlelight tours.

The Heritage House Museum is located at 905 W. Division Ave., Orange.

OUTDOORS

Anglers go “all in” for big winter fish

OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

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

Fishing in the winter months, after the gulls seem to have left for vacation and the shrimp have all but disappeared, means you must do a couple of important things in order to be successful. Finding the warmest water in your area and finding baitfish such as mullet in that area is a great sign. According to Parks and Wildlife studies water temperatures in the 60 to 80 degree range are the best for catching speckled trout. During the winter months as the surface temps dip into the low 50's it is a must to slow your presentations and possibly offer up a little bigger bait. Tried and true late winter and early spring producers like Corkies and Catch V's should be in every fisherman's tackle box as well as a few others that don't get quite as much recognition. In years past I have really become a fan of the stick baits or shallow divers like the Rapala X Rap or Yozuri Minnows and you should never leave the dock without a few topwater plugs such as the MirrOlure She Dog or Pup, Rapala skitterwalks, or the tried and true Super spooks.

Winter fishing always invites the heated debate between waders and drifters, which method is better and who catches more fish. Wading is one of those techniques where you either “love it or hate it”, some fishermen cannot stand the work involved or the cold water temps while others thrive under these conditions. All I can tell you is to try it out and see for yourself, the results are often worth effort. Now don't get me wrong wading is not the “end all be all” technique that will guarantee you success, it will at certain times appear that way. Watching anglers in a boat continue to try to get into an area where waders are catching fish and their boat won't go is often comical, you can just see the frustration every time a wader lands a fish. More often than not the boat usually leaves in disgust.

If wade fishing proves not to be something you are willing to pursue don't worry, you can drift over the scattered shell reefs on the lake and still have a good shot at catching that big fish. The same baits that work for waders will also catch big fish from a boat provided you take a few things into consideration. Noise and boat control are tops on the list of factors that will determine success or failure. Careful anglers know that slamming hatches and dropping gear o the floor of a boat can spook fish and quickly turn a prime area into a virtual ghost town. Also setting up on one of these areas takes careful planning and the right gear, a Power Pole or Stake Out Stick is a great way to position your boat in order to fish an area more thoroughly. Those people who think you can't catch big fish from a boat need to re-think that statement because with a little effort you can certainly score that fish of lifetime without having to get wet or wade.

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports- This Week

Compiled by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

• **Sabine Lake**

GOOD. 68 degrees. Focus fishing efforts in areas protected from the wind. The Neches River points, drops and bayous continue to produce catches of redfish, a few speckled trout under the birds, sheepshead and very nice drum up to 17 inches on rock piles, and freshwater catfish.

Still reeling in a mixed bag off the buoys with live shrimp under a popping cork. After the last cold front dropped the water the redfish are good on the intracoastal canal rock piles. The wind has kept anglers off Sabine Lake, but this should change for the Thanksgiving weekend. Look for midlake bird action then slow roll silver or gold spoons on the bottom for bigger sized trout, or make long drifts with 1/2- 3/4 ounce jigs in 2-6 feet of water. North Levy on Pleasure Island is good for speckled trout and redfish with live shrimp under a popping cork. Some birds are working the North Levy wall. Bull redfish are staying near the jetties.

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

• **Bolivar**

GOOD. 72 degrees. Water temperature is dropping finally in the lower 70s, and should continue to drop with the forecasted weather changes. Water levels swapping back-and-forth this week with the north winds pushing the tide out. 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. Remember, flounder are catch and release only through December 14th. The surf is producing lots of redfish and black drum, the occasional speckled trout and bigger sharks along the whole peninsula with more activity towards Gilchrist, High Island mainly. Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

• **Trinity Bay**

SLOW. 68 degrees. Lots of trout in various areas with those wading the east shoreline finding better quality fish. West shoreline producing fair action on trout, but better numbers of redfish being caught along the old pier



Winter fishing for big trout is a Texas tradition. This big fish was tagged and released. See article on Left. RECORD PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

the past few days has been fishing right on the bottom over deep shell with 1/4 ounce jig heads with light color tails by Wac Attack, securing the most bites. The redfish are still up around grass lines and in the shallow water areas in the marsh. We are still using Imitation shrimp lures and tails under popping corks, with a one foot leader, but the jig head or tails have been the winner this week. As in previous weeks, if you don't see active bait, move on rather quickly. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Service, LLC.

• **Galveston Bay**

SLOW. 67 degrees. Western shoreline holding good numbers of trout and a few black drum with the occasional redfish. Spoil islands fair for trout, but bull reds are roaming near the rocks. The bull redfish are also beginning to school up in the open bay, look for working birds. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• **West Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 68 degrees. Far west end of the bay, in Chocolate bayou and bay is good for speckled trout on shell reefs and working flocks of birds. Scattered reds along the bayou shorelines and grass lined shorelines. Those fishing the upper end of the bay are finding speckled trout on shell throwing soft plastics.

pilings. Upper ship channel bays are good for trout, redfish, black drum, and sheepshead on live shrimp under popping corks. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

ing caught on live shrimp, croakers, and finger mullet. We are still getting a few reports of good fishing by Frenchtown Road, Siever's Cut, and near the boat ramp by rollover. Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

• **East Galveston Bay**

GOOD. 68 degrees. Waders are beginning to catch some quality speckled trout on hard plastic baits. Redfish mixed in with them and still some flounder near the mouths of deep bayous and drains. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. Slot sized speckled trout, black drum, and redfish are be-

Surface water temperature 65 degrees. The water clarity is about average now for East Galveston Bay. This past week we had a couple of fronts push through that dropped the water temperatures, as well as water levels in the bay system. On our morning trips we have fished falling tides, and the trout bite has continued to get better, catching good numbers and some over-size fish as well. The ticket

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'The Lakes' Fishing

• **Toledo Bend Fishing Report**

FAIR. Water normal stain; 68 degrees; 4.11 feet below pool. Fishing patterns are holding steady with very little change. Expect the bass to be good shallow with chatterbaits, small spinnerbaits and swimbaits. Target fish in 1-5 feet of water in flooded stumps or shallow grass. The creek bite will take a few days to turn on after the water clears. Best baits are going to be lipless crankbaits, square bills crankbaits and Texas rigs in 6-10 feet. The deep bite will improve this week after the strong winds pass. Cast spoons, dropshots and tail spinners. No reports on crappie. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• **Sam Rayburn Fishing Reports**

FAIR. Water slightly stained; 65 degrees; 2.48 feet below pool. Bass are improving in shallow water where fish are chasing the bait into pockets. Target whatever brush and grass you can find and flip into it with your favorite lure. Crappie are slowly moving up the river. Catfish are good in 15-26 feet of water on cut bait and minnows. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service.

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Avoiding canine kennel cough over the holidays

Maci Guay
Texas A&M AgriLife

The holidays often include cold weather, travel and a change of routine for pets. This could lead to a case of canine infectious respiratory disease complex, otherwise known as kennel cough.

Kennel cough is a highly contagious respiratory disease that causes inflammation in the trachea and the bronchi. The combination of infectious viral and bacterial agents poses a health risk for dogs.

Cooler temperatures mean an increase in outbreaks as dogs spend more time indoors in close quarters and their immune systems weaken, according to experts with the Texas A&M Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory, TVMDL.

Catherine Campbell, veterinary diagnostician, Bryan-College Station, said an outbreak of this complex can be detrimental to boarding facilities, shelters or even dog parks.

"Most of these infectious agents tend to spread via aerosol droplets or even fomite transmission," Campbell said. "It can spread at a high rate within a kennel situation and thus we get the term kennel cough."

Kennel cough viruses include distemper, parainfluenza, canine influenza and herpes. In addition to Bordetella bronchiseptica, other bacteria like Mycoplasma cynos and Streptococcus equi subspecies Zooepidemicus can be potential instigators of kennel cough.

"I recommend early diagnostic testing and intervention," Campbell said. "That really helps in setting expectations and getting a handle on these highly infectious agents and shutting down the spread."

Kennel cough can be prevalent in shelters and kennels because dogs are often housed close together, facilitating easy transmission of pathogens.

Kennel cough can be



Dogs placed in kennels while their owners travel for the holidays could be exposed to the infectious kennel cough.

easily transmitted through:

- Direct contact, e.g., licking or nuzzling.
- Breathing in cough or sneeze droplets from infected dogs.
- Exposure to droplet-contaminated items, e.g., toys, bedding or water bowls.

Healthy dogs that catch kennel cough usually recover fully after about three weeks, however,

some dogs might be more susceptible to serious conditions associated with the complex.

For example, puppies are more vulnerable to critical effects because of their immature immune systems and certain vaccinations have age restrictions.

Inversely, older dogs also experience health risks as some have a decreased immune defense.

Additional complications like heart failure, diabetes or cancer may also increase a dog's susceptibility to the complex.

Canine owners should also closely watch pregnant dogs and quickly recognize unusual behavior.

Clinical signs of kennel cough

A main indicator of kennel cough is a persistent, dry cough, which some experts have described as sounding like a "goose honk."

Other signs include sneezing, runny nose, watery eyes or eye discharge, loss in appetite and less energy.

Campbell said that it is important to identify the etiological agent early in the disease process as several diseases can present with similar clinical signs. For example, canine distemper virus has similar respiratory signs to other viral agents but can lead to more concerning health risks. Therefore, knowing

the cause is critical in providing effective treatment.

Testing options at TVMDL

TVMDL's molecular diagnostics section offers a multiplex real time PCR panel that detects seven of the most common canine respiratory pathogens. TVMDL also has a Mycoplasma species gel-based PCR test that detects general Mycoplasma species.

Megan Schroeder, Ph.D., assistant molecular diagnostics section head, said fresh lung tissue or nasal, tracheal or pharyngeal swabs are the most efficient in detecting respiratory pathogens.

All swabs should be shipped in a clean, sterile tube with a few saline drops to prevent the sample from drying out during transport.

For more information on canine respiratory disease testing options, call the College Station lab at 888-646-5623 or the Canyon lab at 888-646-5624.

Shangri La Gardens to host annual Christmas Strolls



Christmas Strolls are open to the public Tuesday through Saturday from 6-9 p.m., with the last entrance at 8:30 p.m.

Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center has announced their annual Christmas Strolls, a family friendly event that combines the beauty of nature with the joy of the season. On select evenings starting December 3, the public is invited to stroll through the magically transformed gardens that feature thousands of lights, unique Christmas trees decorated by talented community members and festive flowering displays. Admission to Shangri La Gardens is free of charge.

"Since the conclusion of 2023 Strolls, our team at Shangri La Gardens has

thoughtfully prepared for this special community event. We have implemented updates to this season of Strolls, including a new pathway in the garden," said Angie Mason, executive director at Shangri La. "We encourage families to plan their holiday visit early in the season, especially on Tuesday and Wednesday nights, in order to experience smaller crowds. Our team appreciates Orange County Police Department for their efforts in ensuring the safety of our guests by monitoring street traffic near the gardens."

Christmas Strolls are open to the public Tues-

day through Saturday from 6-9 p.m., with the last entrance at 8:30 p.m. A Senior, Mobility Friendly & Sensory Sensitivity Hour will be offered each night of Strolls from 5-6 p.m. This sensory friendly hour is designed for smaller crowds at dusk with no music or flashing lights. Guests with mobility challenges and sensory sensitivities, as well as their caregivers and families, are invited to enjoy Strolls during this time.

To enhance the festive atmosphere, Shangri La Gardens invites visitors to don their best holiday apparel for the weekly themes:

- Crazy Christmas Hat Week - December 3-7
- Family Holiday PJ Week - December 10-14
- Ugly Christmas Sweatweek - December 17-21

"Throughout December, we will hold our annual Community Food Drive. This initiative benefits Orange Christian Services, a non-profit organization that has served Orange County since 1979," said Marlene Cox, guest services coordinator at Shangri La. "This food drive provides such vital resources for those in our

community in greatest need. We encourage visitors to help us make an impact this holiday season by bringing non-perishable food items to Strolls."

Other free holiday happenings at Shangri La Gardens include Dreaming of a Green Christmas on Saturday, December 14. This day begins at 10:30 a.m. with opportunities for families to engage in environmentally friendly activities, which include natural ornament making. There will also be multiple holiday themed photo-ops to commemorate cherished family memories. Dreaming of a

Green Christmas activities end at 3 p.m.

"This Christmas as we Stroll, let's remember to be kind to our volunteers and neighbors just as Shangri La is kind to our world. We look forward to sharing the joy and magic of the season with our community throughout Christmas Strolls," said Mason.

Shangri La Gardens and Nature Center is located at 2111 West Park Avenue in Orange, Texas. The gardens are closed to the public on Sundays and Mondays. To plan a holiday visit, please visit shangrilagardens.org.

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Study: Even Low Levels Of Arsenic In Drinking Water Raise Kidney Cancer Risk

New study shows that current arsenic regulations might be insufficient to protect public health.

Ann Kellett
Texas A&M University
School of Public Health

New research findings from the Texas A&M University School of Public Health indicate that exposure to even low levels of arsenic poses significant health risks, including an increased risk of kidney cancer.

The incidence of kidney cancer in the United States rose by an average of 1.2 percent each year between 2011 and 2019 to become the seventh most common cancer. In the meantime, smoking — a well-established risk factor for kidney cancer — has continued to decline.

This led researchers to consider other possible contributing factors, including arsenic, a known

cause of various cancers that is naturally occurring in groundwater in Texas and other areas. Unlike previous studies, the Texas A&M study focused on low levels of arsenic exposure (below the regulatory threshold of 10 parts per billion) in both public water systems, which are regulated by various government agencies, and private well systems, which are not regulated.

“Some public water systems are poorly managed and could expose customers to arsenic, but the 40 million people in the United States who rely on private wells are particularly vulnerable,” said Taehyun Roh, with the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Others involved with the study were Daikwon Han,



Arsenic occurs naturally and is found in groundwater in Texas and elsewhere.

Xiaohui Xu, and then-doctoral student Nishat Tasnim Hasan, with the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and Garrett Sansom, with the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health. The project was supported by grants from the Houston

Methodist Research Institute, Robert and Janice McNair Foundation and National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences.

Their findings, published in Environmental Pollution, examined the relationship between kidney cancer rates and arsenic levels in

drinking water across 240 Texas counties. The team analyzed cancer data from the Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results on 28,896 cases of cancer among adults in Texas aged 20 and older, alongside water testing data from the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Texas Water Development Board.

They used a statistical model that accounts for geographic location and adjusted the model for demographic and socioeconomic factors and cancer risk factors such as obesity, smoking and diabetes. They also adjusted for covariates that included pesticide density, social vulnerability, income level, rurality, cardiovascular disease hospitalization rates and the prevalence of chronic kidney disease.

The analysis found that exposure to between 1 and 5 parts per billion raised kidney cancer risk by 6 percent, and exposure above 5 parts per billion raised the risk by 22 percent. In addition, the risk of cancer increased by 4 percent with

each doubling of water arsenic levels.

“This suggests that even low-level arsenic exposure in drinking water may be associated with an increased risk of kidney cancer, which aligns with previous research indicating an association between this exposure and lung, bladder and skin cancers,” Roh said.

Hasan noted that their study design can indicate associations between factors but not causality and recommended that future studies focus on individual-level and biometric data — rather than the county-level data used here — to better assess the effects of factors such as lifestyle, family history of kidney cancer and other possible sources of arsenic exposure.

“Still, our findings indicate that reducing arsenic exposure could reduce the incidence of kidney cancer, and this could be achieved through efforts such as enhanced regulatory oversight and targeted public health interventions,” Hasan said.

Advent season begins From Page 1B

Sunday — is commonly marked by the use of rose-colored candles and vestments, according to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

During the holiday season, priests wear purple or blue and churches may include a more modestly decorated altar.

Advent traditions and symbols

The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839 when a Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath of the wheel of a cart, placing 20 small red candles and four large white candles inside the center. The red candles were lit on weekdays and the white candles were lit on Sundays, according to Christi-

anity. The Advent wreath eventually came to be created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The wreath reminds all of God’s unending love and the eternal life he makes possible. Sometimes, additional decorations like holly and berries are added, their red color pointing ahead to Jesus’ sacrifice and death, or pinecones, symbolizing the new life Jesus brings through his resurrection, according to Christianity.

Within the wreath’s branches, four candles representing the four weeks of Advent are inserted, with one lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Three candles are purple and one is rose, but a white candle also can be used. Sometimes all candles are red, blue or white, depending on tradition, according to the United States Con-

ference of Catholic Bishops.

The purple candles symbolize the prayer, penance and preparatory sacrifices and goods works undertaken during this time. The rose candle is lit on the Gaudete Sunday, the Sunday of rejoicing, to celebrate the faithful reaching the midpoint of Advent and proximity of Christmas.

As one of the most important Advent traditions, the four candles traditionally represent hope, faith, joy and peace. The progressive lighting of the candles symbolizes the expectation and hope surrounding the lord’s first coming into the world and anticipation of his second coming. A fifth white candle is sometimes placed and lit in the middle of the wreath on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus’ birth, reports Christianity.


During Advent, a nativity scene is usually blessed on the Vigil of Christmas. If set up at home, it is blessed by a parent or another relative.

Similarly, Christmas trees are typically

set up just before Christmas, with lights illuminated after the prayer of blessing, and remain in place until the Solemnity of Epiphany on Jan. 6. Trees at home may be blessed by a family member in connection with the evening meal on the Vigil of Christmas or another time on Christmas Day.


Duram Ellis Pecans and Walnuts for the Christmas Season

Wesley United Methodist Church will be selling this years crop of Durham/Ellis pecans and walnuts, delivery early November. Pecan halves or pieces \$13.00 per pound, walnuts \$8.50 per pound. Call Jan 409/734-8036 to place an order or for additional information.




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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **ADOLFO GRACIA, JR.**, Deceased, were issued on November 6, 2024, in Cause No. P20113, pending in the County Court at Law No. 1 of Orange County, Texas, to: **Gloria Gracia**.

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

c/o:
Michelle McPherson
9550 FM 1130
Orange, TX
77632

Dated the 3rd day of December, 2024

Michelle McPherson

Michelle McPherson
Attorney for:
Gloria Gracia
State Bar No.: 24033616
9550 FM 1130
Orange, TX
77632
Office: 281-857-0470
Email:
mcphersonlaw@outlook.com

DOMESTIC CITATION BY PUBLICATION/PC - CDVPOWD

THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: **JIMMY LEATHERWOOD**, Respondent,

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgement may be taken against you.

The petition of **Anna Hampshire Petitioner**, was filed in the County Court At Law #2 of Orange County, Texas on 18th day of July, 2023, against **Jimmy Leatherwood and Brittany Savoy** numbered. 230440-D, and entitled. In the Interest of **Delaina Summers Leatherwood, A Child**. The suit requests **Original Petition in Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship**.

The date and place of birth of the child/ren who is/are subject of the suit:
Delaina Summers Leatherwood. 03/27/2018 Beaumont, TX

The court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child/ren's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Orange, Texas, this November 26, 2024.

Anne Reed, District Clerk
Orange County, Texas
Anne Reed

DOMESTIC CITATION BY PUBLICATION/PC - CDVPOWD

THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: **BRITTANY SAVOY**, Respondent,

YOU HAVE BEEN SUED. You may employ an attorney. If you or your attorney do not file a written answer with the clerk who issued this citation by 10:00 A.M. on the Monday next following the expiration of 20 days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgement may be taken against you.

The petition of **Anna Hampshire Petitioner**, was filed in the County Court At Law #2 of Orange County, Texas on 18th day of July, 2023, against **Brittany Savoy and Jimmy Leatherwood** numbered. 230440-D, and entitled. In the Interest of **Delaina Summers Leatherwood, A Child**. The suit requests **Original Petition in Suit Affecting the Parent-Child Relationship**.

The date and place of birth of the child/ren who is/are subject of the suit:
Delaina Summers Leatherwood. 03/27/2018 Beaumont, TX

The court has authority in this suit to enter any judgment or decree in the child/ren's interest which will be binding upon you, including the termination of the parent-child relationship, the determination of paternity and the appointment of a conservator with authority to consent to the child's adoption.

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Orange, Texas, this November 26, 2024.

Anne Reed, District Clerk
Orange County, Texas
Anne Reed

NOTICE OF HEARING BEFORE SPECIAL COMMISSIONERS FOR PUBLICATION

Pursuant to Rule 21.016(d)(3), Texas Property Code, the Special Commissioners hereby issue this Notice of Hearing in connection with their Order Setting Hearing entered this same day.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

TO: THE UNKNOWN OWNERS OF THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IN THIS PROCEEDING; AND ANY UNKNOWN PERSONS WITH AN INTEREST OR CLAIM AGAINST THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IN THIS PROCEEDING, to be served by publication pursuant to § 21.016(d) (3) of the Texas Property Code and

You are hereby notified that on the 10th day of January, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Meeting Room at the Holiday Inn Express - Orange, 2655 I-10 East, Orange, Texas 77630, the undersigned Special Commissioners appointed by the Judge of the County Court at Law No. 2 of Orange County, Texas, will convene a hearing to assess the damages occasioned by the condemnation by Midcoast Pipelines (East Texas) L.P., as Condemnor, for the acquisition of an easement over a portion of a certain tract of land, legally described as being a portion of land situated in the John Stephenson Survey, A-169, Orange County, Texas, being over and across the residue of a called 25-1/2 acre tract conveyed to W.J. Burton recorded on December 8, 1921 in Volume 34, Page 572 of the Official Public Records of Orange County, Texas, (current ownership unknown).

These are proceedings in eminent domain in a case styled: MIDCOAST PIPELINES (EAST TEXAS) L.P. v THE UNKNOWN OWNERS OF AND ANY UNKNOWN PERSONS WITH AN INTEREST IN OR CLAIM AGAINST THE SUBJECT PROPERTY IN THIS PROCEEDING, ET AL., Cause Number 25400, filed in the County Court at Law No. 2 of Orange County, Texas. The undersigned, having heretofore duly selected such time and place for hearing as required by law, will proceed to hear said parties and receive evidence on damages and to act thereon in the manner directed by law.

The preceding Notice to be served via publication has been APPROVED and ISSUED the 25th day of November, 2024.

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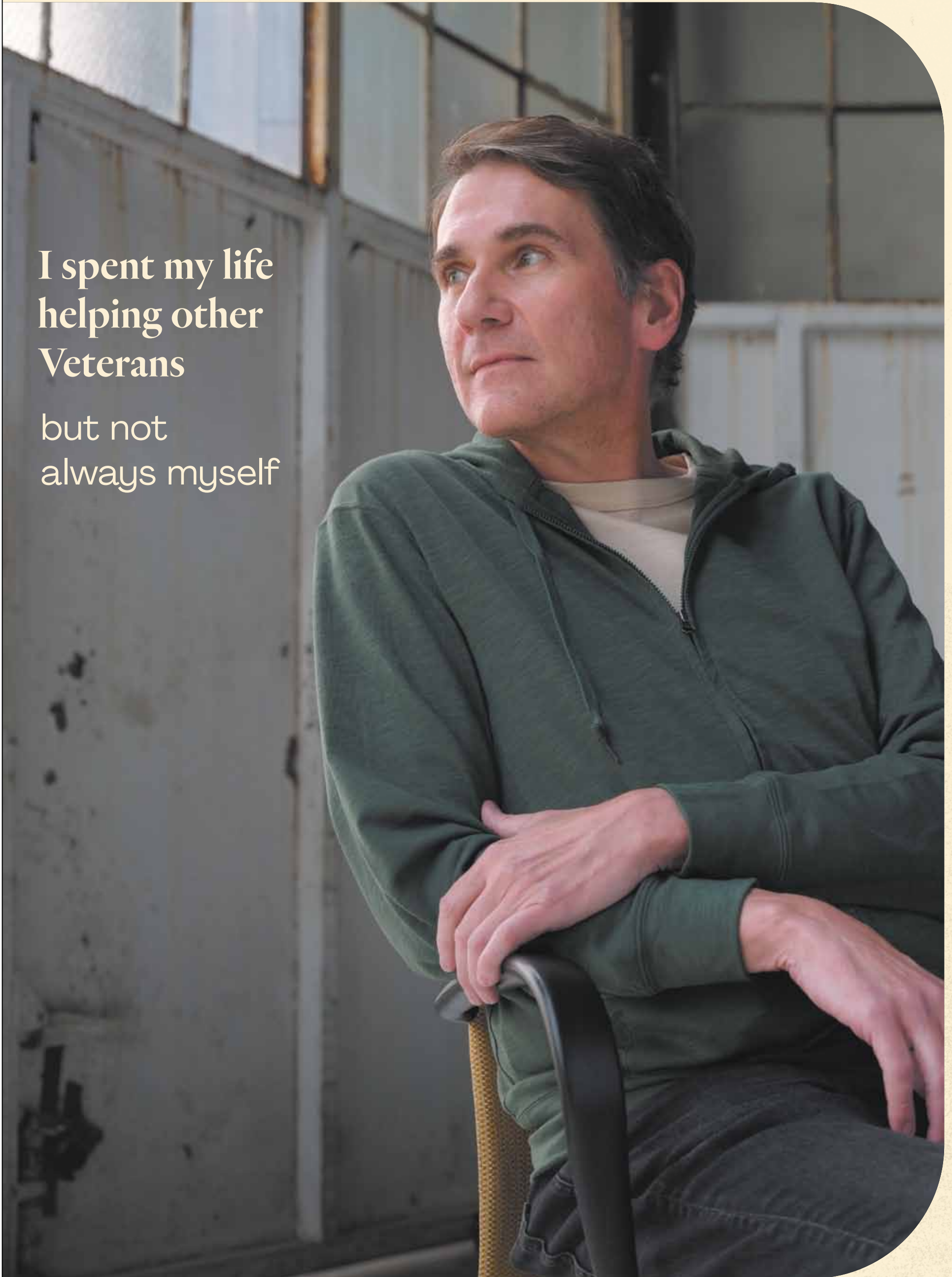
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