

# County Record

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## LSCO President Johnson to retire



Dr. Tom Johnson came to Lamar State College Orange in 2018 and has overseen the expansion of the local campus, plus the opening of another campus. The college has also increased its courses and work training programs.

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

From his third-floor office, LSCO President Dr. Tom Johnson's can see new buildings that weren't there when he came to the job nearly seven years ago. And those buildings are one of the reasons he has decided to retire in Au-

gust.

"When I got here, I had a ten-year plan in place and I've accomplished all of them (the goals), he said.

He said he wants to travel and see more of the world. "I'll be 63 next month and my wife, Karen and I would like to

travel when we're still relatively young to enjoy it."

His replacement will be chosen by the Texas State University System, which oversees LSCO and six other colleges and universities.

Johnson will be ending more than 40 years of work in the public sector, including 20 years with the Houston Police Department and a second

career in public higher education.

Johnson was born in Port Arthur and grew up in the Big Thicket area of East Texas between Livingston and Woodville. He was the first person in his family to attend college and went to Angelina Junior College in Lufkin before going to Sam Houston State University.

In 1982, while in col-

lege, he pursued his interest in government and got a job with U.S. Representative Charles Wilson, a now legendary congressman who represented Orange County for many years. "The first time I got on a plane was to go to D.C. to work for Charlie," he said.

By the time he left Sam Houston State, he had earned bachelor's and

master's degrees. Then he started with the Houston Police Department, spending time in six different divisions. He spent six years working at the department's police academy, which gave him his first experience at education administration.

"I decided I didn't need another degree in crimi-

LSCO'S Page 3A

## Bridge City resident Repasky to celebrate 100 years

**PENNY LELEUX**  
For The Record

Susie Repasky walked into The Record office last week with her caretaker, Jeanna Pressler, to place an announcement of her upcoming 100th birthday party. She is in better physical shape than many 20-30 years younger. She uses a cane more for stability than actual need.

"I could dance if I had a partner," she said.

She's excited to announce a party at the Bridge City Knights of Columbus hall at 2-4 p.m., Jan. 18, 770 Ave. A, Bridge City.

She was born in the country, in Converse, Louisiana to Elbert and Helen Cates on Jan. 17, 1925. She was the sixth child out of nine siblings. She is the last of nine still living.

She graduated from high school in 1942.

"I finished school and went to Lake Charles to a Business School. I went about three months and I decided that wasn't what I wanted," said Repasky. She went to the Army Air Force base in Lake Charles and applied for a job. "I got hired that day and I worked there till 1946."

She did office work, filling out forms and such.

"That's where I met my husband who was a soldier from Johnstown, Pa. and we got married in 1946," She married John Repasky. "He had got out of the service in December of '45 and yet still lived in Lake Charles."

They moved to Kansas City in 1947 where John Repasky went to plumbing school. A year after he finished his trade school, they moved to Orange and lived there until they built a house in Bridge City on the corner of West Darby and Texas Avenue, "where the donut shop and Red's Liquor store is now," she said. "We lived there on that property for 15 years, then we had a house built on the corner of Live Oak and Roundbunch.

"We had four kids, two boys and two girls. They all finished school at Bridge City High School."

Once all the kids were in school,



Susie Repasky of Bridge City turns 100 on Jan. 17 and invites the public to help her celebrate with cake, 2-4 p.m., Jan. 18, at BC Knights of Columbus hall. Courtesy Photo

she went to work at Orange Memorial Baptist Hospital for 30 years as the supervisor over admissions, switchboard and the cashier.

"I retired then I went back and for two years I volunteered in the emergency room." She was one of the grey ladies.

Once they both retired, they traveled to California, Phoenix, Las Vegas, New York and Pennsylvania with friends and to see family.

Dave Rogers did a story on her husband, John, for The Record Newspapers in 2017 when he turned 100. Mr. Repasky passed away three months later.

These days, she is home with her two caretakers most of the time.

"I don't have no hobbies really. I don't crochet and I don't knit. I don't paint...none of that stuff. I

do like to play bingo and I do like to go to the casino once in a while," she said.

She plays Bingo after luncheons at St. Henry Catholic Church.

"I don't get out too much with all of this sickness," she said. "I don't have anybody living here. none of my family lives here."

She exercises by using her walker and walking in the garage for safety. She watches a little TV. Her shows are The Young and the Restless, the local news and Wheel of Fortune. She also likes to do word search puzzles.

"It don't take a lot of entertainment for old people like me," she said.

Three of her four children are still living. She lost a daughter to breast cancer in 1996. Susie came

SUSIE REPASKY Page 3A

## Filings to run for councils, boards starts soon

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

Filings will open for local city council and school board positions on Wednesday, January 15. Some of the spots open this year will be for West Orange mayor, currently held by Randy Branch.

Interested and qualified people running for offices in the May 3 elections may file during regular weekday business hours until Friday, February 14. City council filings are taken in the city secretary's office at the appropriate city hall. School board trustees will file in the offices of the secretary to the school district's superintendent.

Hours and holidays will vary for the different offices, so people wanting to file for a position should

check the times and days before going to file in person. The Orangefield ISD will have its board election during the November general election because of state regulations.

The Orange County Drainage District and Orange County Port District have elections for their boards of directors during even years.

Open seats for May's election will be:

Bridge City City Council has three openings this year. Place 1 is currently held by Aaron Roccaforte, Place 3 held by Bryant Champagne, and Place 5 held by Terri Gauthier. The city has at-large voting, meaning citizens can vote for all the positions and candidates do not have to live in a specific

MAY 3 Page 2A

## CFPB to Remove Medical Bills from Credit Reports

**Rule ends coercive debt collection practices**

**LARRY JOHNSON**  
For The Record

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) on Tuesday finalized a rule that will remove an estimated \$49 billion in medical bills from the credit reports of about 15 million Americans. The CFPB's action will ban the inclusion of medical bills on credit reports used by

lenders and prohibit lenders from using medical information in their lending decisions. The rule will increase privacy protections and prevent debt collectors from using the credit reporting system to coerce people to pay bills they don't owe. The CFPB has found that medical debts provide little predictive value to lenders about borrowers' ability to repay other debts, and consum-

ers frequently report receiving inaccurate bills or being asked to pay bills that should have been covered by insurance or financial assistance programs.

"People who get sick shouldn't have their financial future upended," said CFPB Director Rohit Chopra. "The CFPB's final rule will close a special carveout that has allowed debt collectors to abuse

the credit reporting system to coerce people into paying medical bills they may not even owe."

The CFPB's research reveals that a medical bill on a person's credit report is a poor predictor of whether they will repay a loan, and contributes to thousands of denied applications on mortgages that consumers would be able to repay. The CFPB expects the rule will lead to the approval of approximately 22,000 additional, affordable mortgages every year and that

Americans with medical debt on their credit reports could see their credit scores rise by an average of 20 points.

The CFPB's action follows changes made by the three nationwide credit reporting conglomerates – Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion – who announced that they would take certain types of medical debt off of credit reports, including collections under \$500, after the CFPB raised concerns about medical debt credit

reporting in early 2022. Additionally, FICO and VantageScore, the two major credit scoring companies, announced they have decreased the degree to which medical bills impact a consumer's score.

The CFPB's final rule brings regulations in line with Congress's decision to safeguard consumers' privacy by restricting lenders from obtaining or using medical informa-

CFPB ENDS Page 3A

# ★ Writer and friend Mike Louviere replies to ‘Sherlock Breaux’ mention

*Hello Breaux,*

Nice of you to mention me in the edition of the December 18th. I did not read it until the 25th. My wife had a serious heart attack on the 17th, so I was a little busy. Jeannie is OK. She had three stents placed and is home recovering nicely. She is a four foot, eleven inch go-getter and is having to learn to slow down.

I do live on a lake, but not the big one and not near Conroe. I live in Ace, Texas, seven miles north of Romayor and about 17 miles north of Livingston. Today Ace only has a post office, two churches and a cemetery. Sometime in the past there was a port on the Trinity River near here.

We live in Taylor Lake Estates, a cluster of homes around about a 200 acre lake. I walk out the backdoor, go about 50 feet and fish off a dock. I'm overhauling a somewhat classic boat, a Coleman Crawdad. It's a small plastic jon boat. Most boats here are similar to mine, powered by trolling motors. Taylor Lake is not a bass mecca, but we do OK. I'm slowed



Mike Louviere

down and fish with ultra light stuff and my favorite, fly rods.

West Orange is well represented here. After we moved here I discovered David Heard, WOHS Class of 1960. I was in the WOHS Class of 1963. David married Sherry Bollman from his high school class last year. What are the chances of three of us ending up on the west edge of the Big Thicket?

I like it up here, but I miss Orange. I keep up with all things Orange by reading The Record, Ginger Broome's Orange County website and the local obits. Sadly I see more in the obits than I would prefer to see. Thought occurred to me that I have been reading

OVN and the Record for over 50 years. For a while living in Vidor I had a subscription to OVN and received my copy by mail. Remember those days?

The day after Thanksgiving last year(2023), I took a fall in the bathroom, like most old geezers, and shattered the bone in my left shoulder. I had a total shoulder replacement early last December. I'm still not fully recovered. I've got nerve damage in my left hand that has my fingers numb. As a result of that I've got moss draping off my monitor and fungus growing on the keyboard, not been able to write much.

I've been glad to see the good things happening around Orange. What gives me the most warm fuzzy feeling is what the folks at Orange Community Players are doing with the old movie theater. OCP is a great group of dedicated people that are a treasure that Orange should cherish. Wish we had a similar organization in Livingston.

Along with you, I wish I knew "Sharon's" last name, I probably knew her. She mentioned Tommy Hub-

bard. He lives near Washington D.C. and goes by "John" now, his first name. His parents are both deceased. I went in the store several years ago and though it is different inside it still has mostly the same smell and feel.

I will always be grateful for the day I staggered into the Record office in Bridge City and gave Al Droche an envelope with some samples of my writing and a few pictures. (By the way, Mayo Leblanc used to call Al, "Cock-A-Roach" in the refinery) Roy gave me the opportunity to start writing that lasted nearly 18 years for five different publications and one website. I met some good people and had some great experiences. I often think about good times in The Record office, especially when Roy and I would talk about old people, places, and things.

Thanks for all the good times, you are never long out of my thoughts. Tell all the gang hello for me and if you ever get up this way give me a hollar.....

Mike

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Round The Clock Hometown News

## May 3 election filings start soon From Page 1

area. However, candidates must file for a specific seat.

Orange City Council has the At-Large Place 5 spot held by Caroline Hennigan open, along with Single-Member District 2 councilor held by Brad Childs and Single-Member District 4 held by Mary McKenna. Orange is the only city council with single-member districts. Only people living within the specific district may run or vote for the office. Hen-

nigan's seat is at-large, and any qualified person in the city may run for the spot and vote for the seat.

Pinehurst City Council has three at-large positions open and they are currently held by Dr. Mike Shahan, Troy Pierce, and Joey Vance. Any qualified resident in the city may run for any of the offices and may vote for all three.

West Orange City Council has the term of Mayor Randy Branch expiring.

Also up for election this year will be Meritta Kennedy, who serves as mayor pro tem, and Brent Dearing. The seats are all at-large with any qualified resident eligible to run or vote for any position.

Bridge City ISD board of trustees has three at-large positions of Place 3, currently held by Rebecca Rutledge, who serves as president of the board. The other positions are Place 4 held by Thad Hill, and

Place 5 held by Jerry McInnis.

Little Cypress-Mauriceville CISD has two at-large positions open that are currently held by Chris Riedel and Derry Dunn.

West Orange-Cove CISD has three at-large positions open. The seats are currently held by Linda Platt-Bryant, the board president, along with seats held by Gina Yeaman and Demetrius Hunter.

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# LSCO's Dr. Tom Johnson retiring From Page 1

nal justice, I needed a degree in education," he said.

Southern University in Houston offered doctoral classes at night, so he was able to graduate while continuing to work his day job with the police department.

After his twenty years, four months, and ten days at the HPD, he was able to retire and change careers to higher education. Most

of those years were spent at Tyler Junior College. He also worked at Houston Community College and Sam Houston State.

He came to Lamar State College Orange in 2018 and has overseen the expansion of the local campus, plus the opening of another campus. The college has also increased its courses and work training programs.

The expansion locally

includes the construction of the new Academics Building, the addition of an industrial mechanics training center, and the Stark Foundation donation of the historic century-old church building which is being repurposed and expanded into a welcome center.

But the growth hasn't all been local. LSCO opened a satellite campus in Lumberton and has

worked with Lamar Institute of Technology and Lamar State College Port Arthur to open a joint campus in Livingston.

The growth has led to LSCO increasing from 2350 academic students in 2018 to 3,613 academic students.

The college also has workforce classes with enrollment going up from 544 a year to 2,448 students today. In the spring

of 2018, the school had 99 graduates and was up to 350 spring graduates in 2024.

The statistic Johnson loves the most, though, is that two-thirds of the students at LSCO are first generation college students, like he is.

Johnson said he loves the Orange community and its people. He's grateful for the time he has spent here, especially be-

ing close to his late father, who was in his 90s. "I got to spend a lot of time with him in his last five years," Johnson said. Plus, he has lots of relatives nearby that he has been able to visit.

He'll stay here for another eight months, but then, he hopes his traveling takes him and his wife further away than East Texas.

# CFPB ends medical debt reporting From Page 1

tion, including information about medical debts. Federal financial regulators later created an exception to this restriction, allowing creditors to consider medical debts. This carveout has enabled debt collectors to use the credit reporting system to coerce payments from patients for inaccurate or false medical bills.

The CFPB's new rule amends Regulation V, which implements the Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA), to end this exception and establish guardrails for credit reporting companies, prohibiting them from including medical bills on credit reports sent to lenders, who are banned from considering them. The final rule:

Prohibits lenders from considering medical information: The rule ends the special regulatory carveout that previously allowed creditors to use certain medical information in making lending

decisions. This means lenders will also be barred from using information about medical devices, such as prosthetic limbs, that could be used to require that the devices serve as collateral for a loan for the purposes of repossession.

Bans medical bills on credit reports: The rule bans consumer reporting agencies from including medical debt information on credit reports and credit scores sent to lenders. This will help end the practice of using the credit reporting system to coerce payment of bills regardless of their accuracy. Lenders will continue to be able to consider medical information to verify medical-based forbearances, verify medical expenses that a consumer needs a loan to pay, consider certain benefits as income when underwriting, and other legitimate uses.

Tuesday's rule advances the CFPB's work to protect consumers from

harms from medical debt and coercive debt collection practices. In October, the CFPB issued guidance clarifying that debt collectors violate federal law when they collect on inaccurate or legally invalid medical debts. Previously, the CFPB published in 2022 a report describing the extensive and debilitating effects of medical debt along with a bulletin on the No Surprises Act to remind credit reporting companies and debt collectors of their legal responsibilities under that legislation.

The rule will be effective 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

Read the CFPB's notice to the final rule, "Prohibition on Creditors and Consumer Reporting Agencies Concerning Medical Information (Regulation V)."

Read the Unofficial Redline of the Prohibition on Creditors and Con-

sumer Reporting Agencies Concerning Medical Information (Regulation V). Learn more about Credit Reporting Requirements and the CFPB's work on medical debt. Consumers can submit complaints about financial products or services by visiting the CFPB's website or by calling (855) 411-CFPB (2372).

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# Susie Repasky turns 100 From Page 1

down with breast cancer during that time herself, but said she didn't require any chemotherapy or radiation.

"They just took the boob off and that was it," she said.

"One of my sons is in New York and one lives at Damon, Texas which is out of Houston and my daughter lives in Kenya Lake at San Antonio. I had three granddaughters and one died at six weeks."

She had five great-grandchildren but lost her 18-year-old great-granddaughter in February in a car accident.

She lost her last sibling three years ago. That's how she got her caregivers. Her sister was living with her and they were looking after her. When her sister died several months later, Repasky's children told her to keep the caregivers for herself. She didn't want to go to an assisted living and she

gave up driving at age 96, so she needed help to get around if needed.

Her eyesight is still good because she gets shots in her eyes every 10 weeks to keep macular degeneration at bay.

What does she attribute to her long life? "The good Lord above. If you believe in that. He's the one that takes you through all troubles."

She recounted on her youth.

"I picked cotton, I'm not ashamed to say that we worked in the country. My dad was having this big farm and then he drove a school bus. That's how we lived. We had cows. We had milk. We had chickens. We had pigs. We had all kinds of vegetables. When you eat stuff like that, fresh, I think that has a lot to do with it too. My dad lived to be 97½ and my mother lived to 85."

She still has one double first cousin living.

"I'm the oldest she's 90 and I'm 99. I think maybe she might be in worse shape than I am I don't know but she's gonna come into my party," she said. Her cousin lives in Dallas.

"My son from New York should be coming in another week or so. He'll probably come on Wednesday before the party."

The public is invited to join her for cake and help her celebrate her centennial birthday.

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## From the Creaux's Nest

### DR. TOM WILL BE MISSED

I visited with **Dr. Tom Johnson** by phone over the weekend. He was at his place on Lake Livingston doing nothing, totally deserved rest. "The heaviest thing I have lifted is this coffee mug as I enjoy the outdoors and the million dollar view." He said he would call me Monday. I know now he must have been deep in thought about his future. He has put in 42 years in government service. That left little time with family. His life and accomplishments at such a young age is quite a story. Our friend **Dr. Tom Johnson**, a Port Arthur lad, weaved quite a life story. The last six years he make great accomplishments at **Lamar State College-Orange**. He was a Houston police officer and a right hand man for **Congressman Charlie Wilson** before becoming a college president. He will retire come August. We can't thank him enough for all the work he put in to expand the college. Personally I'll miss the guy. I bonded with him the first time I met him. What a great guy. He and his wife **Karen** plan to enjoy time and traveling together.

### REMAINS OF CAPITOL ATTACK FADES AS TRUMP TAKES OFFICE

Scars on the walls have been repaired. Windows and doors broken by the rioters have been replaced. And there is no plaque, display or remembrance of any kind. Lawmakers rarely mention the attack, and many Republicans try to downplay it, echoing **President-elect Trump's** claims that the carnage of that day is overblown and that the rioters are victims. In some ways, it's like the insurrection of **Jan. 6, 2021**, that shook the foundations of **American democracy**, never happened. **Trump** promises to pardons rioters, as he has said he will do after taking office Jan. 20. Some of the 1,250 defendants convicted of crimes after Jan. 6 called for the deaths of then-**House Speaker Nancy Pelosi**, D-Calif., and **Mike Pence**, who was **Trump's vice-president**, as the mob violently overran police and breached the building. **Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski**, one of seven **Senate Republicans** who voted to convict **Trump** on impeachment charges after Jan. 6, said it was a very dark time. **Congress** passed a law in March 2022 to require "an honorific plaque listing the names of all of the officers of the **United States Capitol Police**, the **Metropolitan Police Department** of the District of Columbia, and other **Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies**. Now, almost three years later there is no plaque. It's unclear why or who is responsible for it. **New York Rep. Joe Morelle**, now the top **Democrat on the House Administration Committee**, said refusing to display the plaque is part of an effort to "deny **Jan. 6** happened and the harm it caused to the **U.S. Capitol Police force**. We must never forget.

### OUR CONDOLENCES Stephen Dale Carlton

Longtime Orange County attorney **Stephen Dale "Steve" Carlton**, 78, of Orange, passed away December 29, 2024. A celebration of life was held Saturday, January 4, 2025, at Turning Point Church in Vidor. Born in Butte, Montana, and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Steve dedicated his life to his interests, his profession, and his family. He graduated from Eastern New Mexico University in 1969 where he was a ranked tennis player. He was a proud graduate of the University of Texas Law School, Steve became a licensed attorney in 1972. He established the Carlton Law Practice in Orange. A die-hard University of Texas Longhorns fan. He cherished his season tickets and the camaraderie of tailgating with family and friends. Both of his children also graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and share his love for the Texas Longhorns. He even chose to marry the love of his life during halftime of the Texas versus Texas A&M football game on Thanksgiving Day in 1975. He relished trips to the Bowl games with his family, with the most important being the National Championship game where his Texas Longhorns won. Steve loved to tell funny stories about his life adventures with his family and friends. He was quick to tell anyone who would listen about how proud he was of his children and their various accomplishments. Steve became a beloved figure among his colleagues, who affectionately referred to him as "Grumpy." What I best remember about Steve was that he was a good lawyer who most often won the case. Also, how quick he was on his feet with one liners. Our condolences to his family.

### THOMAS JAMES ANDRUS

We were sorry to learn of the death of **Thomas James Andrus**, who passed away January 2, 2025. His funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 7, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City. Our condolences to wife Carolyn, son Eric, daughter-in-law Caitlin and granddaughter Diana, family and friends. Please see obituary.

### Mary Ruby Russell

**Mary Ruby Russell**, age 86, of Bridge City passed away January 3, 2025. Funeral services were held Tuesday, Jan. 7, at First Christian Church of Orangefield. She and husband R.V. Russell had been married 70 years. Our condolences to their large family. May this good lady rest in peace. Please see obituary

### TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2015

New Orange County officials took office Jan. 1. To **County Judge Britt Carlton, Commissioner Barry Burton and Justice of the Peace, Pct. 3, Joy Simon-ton**, we send our best wishes. Going back to 1948, **Judge Simon-ton** is only the seventh Justice of the Peace in Pct. 3, starting with **John T. Denny** when the office was located in Orangefield. The office was then moved behind a little Sak-N-Pak store on Texas Ave. where Stop and Drive is now located. When **Judge Toups** was elected **Judge Flo Edgerly's mother, Abbie Carter**, was office manager, assistant. When **Toups** died his roommate **Judge Andrus** was appointed. He also inherited the grocery store. They operated the J.P. office in a little white building that still exists today. **Judge Andrus** retired, moved to the lakes where he ran for the J.P. office and was elected. **Martin Ardoin** retired from the plant and was **Dist. Judge Gene Hoyt's bailiff**. He ran for J.P. and served until **Flo Edgerly** was elected. She served for 20 years and was replaced by longtime chief clerk **Janice Menard**. It was during **Ardoin's time** that the J.P. office on Roundbunch was built. The new office on Hwy. 87-South was built while **Menard** was judge. She had some input in how the building was to be built, just as **Ardoin** had done on the Roundbunch office. **Judge Ardoin** is credited in stopping a longtime practice in the Bridge City area, then known as a "Speed Trap" and having a "Kangaroo Court."\*\*\*\*We were very sorry to learn about the death of **Brenda Lee Sanders Beaumont**, 50, who passed away Friday, Jan. 2, at Baptist Hospital, Beaumont after suffering a massive heart attack. **Brenda** was the daughter of our friends **Sue and Tommy Simar**. We knew **Brenda** to be a friendly, outgoing lady, who never seemed to meet a stranger. Services were held Tuesday, Jan. 6, at Dorman Funeral Home. \*\*\*\*Port Commissioner **Keith Wallace** got to spend the holidays on a deer lease with his 12 and 15 year old sons. The boys both bagged their first deer. Something they will always remember. **Keith** says, "It's memories for him also plus spending camp time with the boys.

### 22 Years Ago-2003

New Orange County officers sworn in are **Janice Menard**, J.P. Pct. 3; **Roy Derry Dunn**, J.P. Pct. 2; **Owen Burton**, commissioner Pct. 2; **Beamon Minton**, commissioner Pct. 4; **Carl Thibodeaux**, county judge; **Michael Shuff**, county court at law judge; **Bud-die Hahn**, 260th district judge; **Karen Jo Vance**, county clerk; **Vickie Edgerly**, district clerk; **Vergie Moreland**, county treasurer; **Joe Parkhurst**, J.P. Pct. 1; **Sherry Smith**, J.P. Pct. 4. (Editor's note: They served us well and they were all good Democrats.)\*\*\*\*County Commissioner **John Dubose** named **Judge Pro-Tem**. He replaces **Sue Bearden** who was defeated in the Democratic Primary runoff by **Burton**.\*\*\*\***Karen's youngest son, Collin Slade Gros**, celebrated his 8th birthday Jan. 10.

### 47 Years Ago-1978

**Don Burgess** is sworn in Sunday as 260th district judge by law partner **H.D. Pate**. Wife **Bobbie** held the Bible.\*\*\*\***W.T. Oliver** started the day before preparing a feast for the New Year's Eve party and 23rd wedding anniversary celebration of **Roy and Phyllis Dunn**. The gathering was held at the **Dunn home**. **Oliver** featured 20 gallons of gumbo, 20 gallons of jambalaya, five gallons of sausage and blackeyed peas, Mexican corn bread and other trimmings. **Paul Wise** furnished the back-up music for a variety of singers. A highlight was the picking and singing of **Father Walter Montedon**. Between walking their baby **Jenny, Gordon and Diane Baxter** did a couple of numbers. **H.D. Pate** sang along and prompted **Sen. Carl Parker** into singing ten songs by announcing the **Senator** didn't know but two. **Vicki Curtis** and **Dennis Hall** teamed up on the guitar while the crew harmonized. Furnishing foot-tapping and leg-clapping were **State Rep. Wayne Peveto, Judge Grover Halliburton, Betty and Bernard Gaiarratano, Danny Brack, Judge Burgess, Barbara Gillis, Sue Pate and Betty Harmon**. Big eaters were **Bobby Cormier, Dewey "Teddy Bear" Cox, Bill Forte, Jack Parcel, Tim Libby, James Fontenot and Ace Amedo**. **Don Jacobs** sang his novelty songs including "The Legend of **Roy Dunn**." **Harold Beeson**, judge of Rose City, author and newspaper reporter came without **Shelia**. The only time he ever behaved. Around 100 folks attended the annual party. (Editor's note: **Roy** was half his age. Recently **he** and **Phyl** celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.)

### 52 Years Ago-1973

District Judge **Graham Bruce**, Tax Assessor-Collector **Louvenia Hryhorchuk** and District Attorney **Jim Sharon Bearden** are all sworn into office. Also sworn into office New Year's Day were County-Court-at-Law Judge **David Dunn**, Sheriff "Buck" **Patillo**, Commissioners **Casey Peveto, Gordon Dunn, and Asa Mansfield**, Constables **Morris Collier, John Ford, Forrest Hudson and Carl Ward**. Also sworn in was District Judge **Fred Trimble**.\*\*\*\*Immediately following oath, **District Attorney Bearden** announced that **Bill Joyce**, former sheriff's captain and Newton police chief, had been hired as criminal investigator for the county attorney's office. **Bearden** also hired **Steve Williams** as assistant in charge of misdemeanor cases. (Editor's note: I wrote the above all those years ago. I can't believe it has been that long.)

### TRUMP FACES FELONY CONVICTION JANUARY 10

Former president, president-elect **Donald Trump** will be headed back to the White House with a felony conviction. **Judge Juan M. Merchan** will sentence **Trump** 10 days before his inauguration on **Trump's** hush money conviction. That will close the case but with no real punishment. That will close the case but with no real punishment. **Trump** was convicted in May on 34 felony counts. On Jan. 10, the conviction, in the **Stormy Daniels** case without any real punishment called unconditional discharge. It will still be that **Trump** is the first felon to be sworn in as **United States President**. **Trump** can't pardon himself. Pardons apply only to federal crimes, not state crimes. He can appeal his conviction but not until he's been sentenced.

### A FEW HAPPENINGS

Seems like a lot of people stayed home for **New Year's Eve**, but based on the noise through the evening and into the next day, plus the trash left in roads, they did a lot of fireworks shows. **Lady Whistle-breaux** has heard stories that grown-ups are so tired of the noise, they're taking those calming gummy chews intended for dogs. Maybe people stayed home to calm their pets during all the blastings. **Caroline and Mike Hennigan** were way up in Maine visiting their son and his family. **Terri and Brad Childs** went out on the town in Vidor for live music at **Benoit's Louis Hall**, which has become known for good music.\*\*\*\*Longhorn fans got some thrills during the game as UT pulled through with the big win. **Holly Halliburton Callahan** got so excited she knocked off Longhorn-themed Christmas tree decorations that broke. And speaking of UT fans, we hated to hear about the passing of longtime local attorney **Steve Carlton**. He loved his horns.\*\*\*\*Congratulations to **Erin Thibodeaux Davison**, daughter of **Judge Carl and Michaela Thibodeaux**. **Erin** was named the **Citizen of the Year by the Women's Commission of Southwest Louisiana**.\*\*\*\***Sharon Bearden** is still at the **Meadows Rehab Center**. He says four nice ladies have been working him over. He says they are tougher on him than those long ago football two-a-days.

### BREAUX BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

A few people celebrating birthdays in the next few days. **Jan. 8: Lanston Fall, Heather Montagne Mankopf, Terri Gauthier, Mike Comeaux, Joey Halliburton, Nadine Whitsett, Philipp Hunt, Sandra Cole, Sean Brinson**.\*\*\*\***Jan. 9: Chad Meadows, Mattie Goza, Brenda Hearn, Caitlin Pastrana, Ken Steppe, Pat Gunstream, Ralph Boker, Susan Kelly**.\*\*\*\***Jan. 10: Brittany Ramos, Sandy Uzzle, Scott Gerrald, Emily Breaux**.\*\*\*\***Jan. 11: Olivia Trahan, Ashley Rion, Fermin Brown, Grant Gilson, John Kraus, Madeline Dawn Evans, Teresa Franklin**.\*\*\*\***Jan. 12: Beth Lindner, Jill Sherrord, Donald Edgerton, Dana Sandlin, David Pendergast, Lynnette Lothman, Susan LeBlanc**.\*\*\*\***Jan. 13: Commissioner Robert Viator, Rodney Townsend, Jerry Pennington, Kent Hannegan, Ashton Simmons, JoLynn Sholmire, Lyndia Permenter, Mandy Jaarah, Patricia Coppage**.\*\*\*\***Jan. 14: Stephanie Hurst, Robert Simon-ton, Mel Campbell, Chris Williams, Brittany Trantham, Rob Fisher, Tommy Thompson**.\*\*\*\*Birthdays greetings also go out to **Ronnie Perry, Stephanie Blanda, Bonnie Backer, Mindy Currie, Lani Rousseau, Cara Campbell, Ebonie Landry, Phillip Caillavet, Marlene Campbell, Jason Laughlin, Grant Craft, Audi Zeto, Charles Garrett, Bianca Garrett, Dorothy Skiles, Ryan Robertson, and Barbara Dardeau**.\*\*\*\* Looks like the holiday season is a popular time to get married as OC had a number of people with wedding anniversaries this past week. **Lamar and Pam Hughes** had their 33rd.\*\*\***Judge Rodney and Dr. Amy Townsend** marked 28 years and he took the oath of office as a new county court-at-law judge.\*\*\***Paul and Claudia Hardin** celebrated 22 years of marriage.\*\*\***Ron and Becky Anelley** had their 14th.\*\*\* **Bobby and Ashley Seals** have now been married 10 years.\*\*\***Elvis and Melissa Rushing** celebrated their 8th anniversary, though they've been together much longer.

### CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Several years ago, **TeeNeg Comeaux's** sister **Clara Mae** met a guy from up north and married him. She had been gone all dem years so **TeeNeg** and da family had never met her husband **Urban** until dey came for a visit over da holidays.

During the visit talk turned to the weather like it always does wen trying to make conversation. **Urban**, him, he say, "It gets so cold in Minnesota in the winter, we have to put heaters under the cows to milk them."

**Tee Neg** tink bout dat, den not to be out done by dat Yankee he say, "Mais, dat ain't nuttin, it gets so hot here in Sou'h Loosiana, we got to feed ice to da chicken hens so dey won't lay hard-boiled eggs dem."

### C'EST TOUT BIDEN AWARDS PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM TO HILLARY CLINTON, 18 OTHERS

**President Joe Biden** on Saturday named former Secretary of State **Hillary Clinton** and billionaire political activist and philanthropist **George Soros** recipients of the **Presidential Medal of Freedom**, part of a group of 19 people selected for the nation's highest civilian honor. Others presented the medal by the outgoing president at a White House ceremony included **U2 frontman Bono, actor Michael J. Fox, actor Denzel Washington, chef José Andrés and William Sanford Nye, better known as television's "Bill Nye the Science Guy."** From the sports world, decorated professional soccer player **Lionel Messi of Argentina** and retired **NBA legend Earvin "Magic" Johnson** also received the medal. \*\*\*\*I've got to move along. Please read us cover to cover and shop our family of advertisers when you can. Tell them we sent you. Also check out our website at **therecordlive.com** Thanks for your time. **Take care and God bless..**

## Deaths & Memorials

### Stephen Dale “Steve” Carlton, 78

Stephen Dale “Steve” Carlton, 78, of Orange, Texas, passed away on December 29, 2024, at his home in Orange, Texas (which is exactly the way he wanted it, as he was known for doing things his way).

A celebration of life will be held at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, January 4, 2025, at Turning Point Church in Vidor, Texas. Officiating will be Pastor George Gau, their pastor and family friend.

Born in Butte, Montana, on November 10, 1946, and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico, Steve was the son of Cary Carlton and Mary Jane Camerzel Carlton. Steve dedicated his life to his interests, his profession, and his family, leaving behind a legacy that will be cherished by many. He graduated from Eastern New Mexico University in 1969 where he was a ranked tennis player. He remained an accomplished tennis player over the years, as he continued to play tennis in numerous tournaments throughout Texas. He later developed a love for golf and was a member of the Sunset Grove Country Club for many years. He was a proud graduate of the University of Texas Law School, Steve became a licensed attorney in 1972. He established the Carlton Law Practice in Orange, Texas, where he served the community diligently for 50 remarkable years. Steve’s desire to serve began before his legal career, as he participated in the United States Army Reserve Officer Training Corps at the University of Texas at Austin. A die-hard University of Texas Longhorns fan, Steve’s enthusiasm for the team was infectious. He cherished his season tickets and the camaraderie of tailgating with family and friends. On the subject of his children’s college choice, he started them early by bringing them to the UT games and he often used the phrase “I don’t care where you go, but my money is going to UT.” As he would have it, both of his children also graduated from the University of Texas at Austin and share his love for the Texas Longhorns. His commitment to the Longhorns was so profound that he even chose to marry the love of his life during halftime of the Texas versus Texas A&M football game on Thanksgiving Day in 1975, ensuring that the day was extra special and he would not miss the game.



Stephen “Steve” Carlton

Travel also played a significant role in Steve’s life. He relished trips to the Bowl games with his family, with the most important being the National Championship game where his Texas Longhorns won. He loved traveling the world, with some of his favorite places being Germany, Hawaii, and Greece. He also enjoyed touring the USA in his motorhome, traveling to numerous different countries, and cruising with his family and friends, all of which created memories that those who traveled with him will treasure forever.

Steve loved to tell funny stories about his life adventures with his family and friends. He was quick to tell anyone who would listen about how proud he was of his children and their various accomplishments. Known for his humor, sharp wit, strong opinions, and persistence in getting his way, Steve became a beloved figure among his colleagues, who affectionately referred to him as “Grumpy” – a nickname gifted to him by his grandchildren that soon became a term of endearment by all. Beneath his tough exterior lay a compassionate heart, revealing a softer side to those fortunate enough to have known him well. He will be deeply missed by all who knew and loved him. If you knew him at all, then you knew he was one of a kind.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Cary and Mary Jane Carlton, and his brother, Clai Carlton.

He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Dale Clark Carlton; his daughter, Eryn Carlton Lucas Tays and husband, Frankie; his son, Brint Carlton and wife, Claire; his grandchildren, Bryson Lucas, Briggs Lucas, Mayve Carlton, Ridge Carlton, and Marlee and HannahGrace Jackson; his sister, Susie Cheney and her husband, Briggs; his nieces and nephews; Sarah, Zach, Clayton, Molly, Mary, and Fred; his three German exchange student children that became lifelong family members, Antje, Christian, and Nadine; and numerous other loving family members and friends.

Cremation (another example of Steve doing things his way) will be held under the direction of Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

### Thomas James Andrus, 73

Thomas James Andrus, a man of boundless love and a passion for all things mechanical, passed away peacefully on January 1, 2025, at the age of 73. Born on March 2, 1951, Tom lived a life rich in love, laughter, and an enduring sense of adventure.

Tom had a lifelong love for motorcycles. He found great joy not only in riding but also in spending countless hours fixing and restoring motorcycles to their former glory. With grease-stained hands and a twinkle in his eye, he poured his heart into every project, a testament to his remarkable skill and dedication.

Tom also found great joy in his career as a truck driver. He loved the open road, the freedom of driving, and the adventures that came with his work. After many years behind the wheel, he retired with countless memories and stories of his journeys.

At the core of Tom’s life was his family. For 50 wonderful years, he shared his life with his devoted wife, Carolyn Andrus. Together, they built a beautiful life filled with cherished memories. He was a proud father to his son, Eric Andrus, who, alongside his wife Caitlin, blessed Tom with his beloved granddaughter, Diana. She was



Thomas James Andrus

the light of his life, and his love for her knew no bounds.

Tom’s love extended to his siblings, Donny Andrus and his wife, Anita, as well as Cindy Vandiver and her husband, Fred. He was also deeply cherished by a host of nieces and nephews, whose lives he touched with his warmth, humor, and generosity.

Tom was preceded in death by his parents, Laura Mae Andrus and Raymond Andrus, who undoubtedly welcomed him with open arms.

Those who knew Tom will remember his kind spirit, his infectious laughter, and the way he made everyone feel welcome and loved. His legacy of love, family, and a zest for life will live on in the hearts of all who knew him.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m., with funeral services following at 11:00 a.m. at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City. Graveside services will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

Rest easy, Tom, knowing the motorcycles you brought back to life, the miles you drove, the lives you touched, and the love you gave will continue to resonate forever.

### “Gulf of America” has ring to it

Associated Press

President-elect Donald Trump said Tuesday that he would move to try to rename the Gulf of Mexico to the “Gulf of America,” a name he said has a “beautiful ring to it.”

It’s his latest suggestion to redraw the map of the Western Hemisphere. Trump has repeatedly referred to Canada as the

“51st State,” demanded that Denmark consider ceding Greenland, and called for Panama to return the Panama Canal.

Just after Trump’s comments on Tuesday, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia said during an interview with podcaster Benny Johnson that she would direct her staff to draft legislation to change the name of the Gulf of

Mexico, a move she said would take care of funding for new maps and administrative policy materials throughout the federal government.

In 2012, a member of the Mississippi Legislature proposed a bill to rename portions of the gulf that touch that state’s beaches “Gulf of America,” a move the bill author later referred to as a “joke.”

### Mary Ruby Russell, 86

Mary Ruby Russell, 86, of Bridge City, Texas, passed away on January 3, 2025, at Oakwood Manor in Vidor.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at First Christian Church of Orangefield in Orange. Officiating will be Ministers Michael Sullivan and David Garison. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange.

Visitation will be from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., Monday, January 6, 2025, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City.

Born in Corpus Christi, Texas, on January 4, 1938, she was the daughter of Elzie Shepherd and Ruby Shepherd (Boutte). She was a devoted homemaker, taking pride in nurturing both her family and those she chose to call family. Known as “Grandma” by many, she brought warmth and love into the lives of everyone around her. Mary had a passion for cooking, famously making the best gumbo in the world. Her talents extended to sewing, as well as baking, as she loved making and decorating wedding and birthday cakes. Mary had played the piano since she was 14, filling her home with music and joy. A



Mary Ruby Russell

proud member of the First Christian Church of Orangefield, she was a pillar of her community, where she volunteered at nursing homes and offered her support to those in need. Mary will be remembered fondly for her generosity, her delicious meals, and the love she spread to all who had the privilege of knowing her.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Elzie and Ruby Shepherd; and sister, Eleanor McCarver.

She is survived by her loving husband of 70 years, R.C. Russell; children, Ronnie Russell and wife Mandy, Jeanette Gassett and husband Greg Deuschle, Natalie King and husband Gary; grandchildren, Andrew King, Ryan Gassett and wife Bridget, and Thomas King; great grandchildren, Daniel Garcia, Luke Gasset, Layla Waters, and Noah Watters; brother, Walter Shepherd and wife Dot; niece, Mary Jane McCarver; numerous other loving family and friends.

Serving as pallbearers will be Andrew King, Ryan Gassett, Thomas King, Greg Deuschle, Gary King, and Ronnie Russell.

In lieu of flowers, make donations to IDES International at [www.ides.org](http://www.ides.org).

### Meta moving moderators to Texas ends its fact-checking program

The Texas Tribune

Facebook and Instagram’s parent company Meta is moving its content moderators from California to Texas, the tech giant announced Tuesday morning as part of its plan to end its third-party fact-checking program.

Meta is set to replace its fact-checking initiative with Community Notes, a feature that allows users to add fact checks as context to what they consider misleading posts. The social media platform X has implemented a similar feature

in recent years.

Moving Meta’s trust and safety and content moderation teams to Texas will reduce bias concerns, CEO and founder Mark Zuckerberg said in a video posted to Facebook Tuesday morning. Zuckerberg said Meta will also be removing some content restrictions from its platforms on topics like immigration and gender.

Meta did not immediately respond to questions about how many employees would move to Texas or how the company expects the move will improve the teams’ operations.

Zuckerberg isn’t the first big tech CEO to move some of his team’s operations to Texas. In July last year, Tesla CEO and Trump ally Elon Musk moved the company’s headquarters to Austin in 2021. He also announced plans to move X and SpaceX from California to Texas.

Meta’s relationship with Texas has been rocky at times. In July last year, Meta was forced to settle a lawsuit in which the tech giant was accused of using personal biometric data without authorization.

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# Praise God for Boring Days

**Timothée Davi**  
Professor, Bethlehem College and Seminary

*"Praise God for boring days."*

These are the words that my wife, Abigail, wrote to people who were praying for our one-year-old son, Calvin, as he lay hooked to an ECMO machine in Johannesburg, South Africa. ECMO stands for "extracorporeal membrane oxygenation." It is essentially a life-support system that replaces a patient's heart and lungs — modern medicine's last-ditch effort in its war against death. The machine's recovery rate is only 50 percent. And even if someone recovers thanks to ECMO, the side effects range from nothing to the loss of essential brain functions. In other words, only half of our son might have eventually been restored to us.

So there my boy lay, hooked to this mechanical contraption that looked like it belonged in a low-budget sci-fi movie. A monstrous, blood-filled, serpentine tube came out of the right side of his neck, connecting body and machine. My baby was now relying on it to function.

I distinctly remember our fear of this sinister life-support system as we came to greet our sleeping beauty. It seemed almost a holy apparatus, a carrier and purveyor of life, whose grounds were not to be ap-

proached irreverently. The tiniest misstep and we might have bumped a button or snapped that cable. The risky nature of this machine was ever present to us.

Still, my wife wrote that afternoon, "Praise God for boring days." I heartily concurred.

### Out of the Whirlwind

How in the world could these words have come from our hearts? Surely nothing of what I just recounted could come across as boring. And why would we praise God in view of our son's condition?

That day was the first in almost three weeks with no decline noted in Calvin's health. We had been swept up in such a vortex of tribulations that merely a severe thunderstorm seemed to offer ample reason to praise God. To fully make sense of this, I would need to relate our whole story. Since length precludes this, permit me to highlight the main events.

Abigail and I were missionaries in Yaoundé, Cameroon, when our one-year-old burned half of his body with boiling water. The care there is insufficient for dealing with such a condition, so we were medically evacuated to Johannesburg. Upon arrival, the doctor remarked that Calvin's lungs had almost completely collapsed because of the infections from his burns — and from COVID, which, we



discovered, he had also picked up. The doctor was not even sure how he was still alive.

She proceeded to put him on a ventilator. When that failed to restore his lungs, she hooked him to an oscillator (basically a stronger ventilator). That eventually failed as well, so after being resuscitated several times, he was put on ECMO. While on ECMO, he developed a blood clot, which is essentially a death sentence. The doctor said she could not operate and that the clot would not go away on its own. And yet, in response to much prayer, it miraculously disappeared! The medical staff were stunned. In his sovereign grace, God had saved Calvin from death again and again.

### Sweetness of Dull Days

I hope this brief summary shows you why we praised God with thankful hearts for a comparatively boring day. A day without

any major event worth reporting to our prayer warriors was a pure delight. We had endured our fill of eventful days, so we praised God for this dull one. Most of us are not naturally inclined to do so. As I write, we have been back in the US for a couple of months with our miracle boy. Our now nineteen-month-old is thankfully still doing well. Every day, he reminds us of God's miraculous power to give and preserve life. And now people who know our story often ask us what we have learned from our three-month-long descent to death's doorstep with our baby. We say this somewhat un-canny truth: praise God for boring days because they are possible only by his grace.

Each day, like providential fireworks, God's grace lights up our lives. Just like John the Baptist, each exploding glory is meant to call us out of our spiritual stupor. Each testifies to our soul about the light.

Yet more often than not, we are deaf to these calls and blind to their brilliance. We stand unmoved before the luminous spectacle of grace sustaining our day. We dare call it "a boring day" and show that part of our soul remains in the darkness.

### Our Plans Fail

This truth deeply impacted a friend who was praying for us. He realized anew how much "life could always be otherwise." In fact, it is often when we or the ones we love are "caught in the swift, sudden turn of death, that [we] realise the silent, subtle, ever-present perils of life," as Herman Melville writes in Moby Dick. Every step of every day could lead to life-altering events or even death.

My point is this: our lives are much more fragile than we think. Boethius puts it so well: "It is decreed by firm, eternal law.

### End of Boring Days

Dear reader, I hope you see how boring days are possible only by our sovereign God's grace. Oh, blessed are the eyes to which God gives the discernment of this truth! I pray you will praise God for your boring days. They are a gift from his merciful hand.

Even now, months after our trials, I praise him more than I ever did for my boring days. We deserve only wrathful days to begin with. Yet he "makes his sun rise" (Matthew 5:45) on us, he gives us "rains . . . and fruitful

seasons, satisfying [our] hearts with food and gladness" (Acts 14:17), and much more. If you woke up next to a lovely wife and a healthy child this morning, praise God in your heart for these most excellent gifts from his sovereign hand. (And go give them a hug and a kiss after you are done reading this article!)

Yet even if all earthly goods are stripped away, we have grounds for praise. Today, if you were called to be in Christ, if you received a new heart capable of answering that call, if you were, in other words, predestined, called, justified, and glorified, what more reason do you need to praise God for every boring day he might have written for you?

To be sure, boring days must remain, in some sense, boring — uneventful, without trouble or thrill. But do not worry. Soon, there shall not be any boring days at all. Indeed, every day will be a feast, for we will be with the Lamb, day in and day out (Revelation 19:6–9). So, we look further up and further in to that coming world, where every day will be marked by unadulterated joy. Every agony will be turned into glory (The Great Divorce, 69). Our souls shall, as Bach so lyrically puts it, "walk on roses." All will be well, for God shall be all (1 Corinthians 15:28), filling our days with the gladness of his presence.

In the meantime, as we wait on this side of eternity, discern how even your boring days are possible only by God's grace, and praise his holy name.



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# Cotton Bowl marks first meeting between UT, Ohio State since 2009

Reported by  
KCN Sports

The 2025 Cotton Bowl features a high-powered matchup between the University of Texas Longhorns and Ohio State Buckeyes.

These storied programs last met in the 2009 Fiesta Bowl. A Colt McCoy touchdown pass to Quan Cosby with 16 seconds left in regulation lifted UT past Ohio State, 24-21.

Neither team has won at home against each other. The 2009 meeting was in Arizona. The Longhorns lost the previous meeting 24-7 on Sept. 11, 2006 in Austin, Texas while UT defeated Ohio State 25-22 in Columbus, Ohio on Sept. 10, 2005.

Ohio State has been a steady member of the Big Ten, battling for conference supremacy against the likes of the University of Michigan, the University of Oregon and Penn

State University.

UT joined the Southeastern Conference (SEC) in 2024. The Longhorns played in the Big 12 conference for 27 seasons from 1996 to 2023, featuring clashes against Baylor University, Oklahoma University, and Oklahoma State University.

A coach could field a team of NFL players - former and current - from the history of these programs alone.

## STATS AND MORE STATS

Texas quarterback Quinn Ewers and Ohio State's Will Howard lead all quarterbacks in yards-per-game in bowl season. Ewers has 262 while Howard has 315.

The rushing game on both squads is elite as well. Senior TreVeyon Henderson of Ohio State ranks eighth with 174 yards through two contests.

Texas deploys a two-back system between sophomore Quintrevion Wisner and junior Jaydon Blue. Wisner ranks 10th overall with 155 yards and Blue ranks 11th with 150 yards.

Another statistic that sticks out is that among the four teams that have played two games, Ohio State and UT recorded the most touchdowns, 11 and 10, respectively. Texas is the only team that has successfully attempted a two-point conversion in CFB games.

## HOW THE LONGHORNS GOT HERE

Momentum is a funny thing in sports. When you have it, it's hard to stop it and when you lose it, it's hard to get it back.

The University of Texas led 24-8 against Arizona State early in the fourth quarter, but a determined



Texas Longhorns quarterback Quinn Ewers (3) holds up the trophy after a victory over the Arizona State Sun Devils in the Peach Bowl at Mercedes-Benz Stadium.

Photo Credit: Brett Davis-Imagn Images

Sun Devils offense rallied with back-to-back eight-point drives to even the score.

With the game tied, a last-second UT field goal

attempt went wide and ASU appeared to have all the momentum, ready to snatch victory in overtime. Arizona State scored on the first possession of

overtime and pushed Texas to fourth-and-13 in the ensuing possession.

However, Quinn Ewers found Matthew Golden in the endzone to save the season and completely regain momentum for themselves. The Longhorns scored on the next play, the first play of double overtime.

Cornerback Andrew Mukuba sealed Texas' victory with an interception on ASU's possession, sending the Longhorns to face Ohio State in the Cotton Bowl at AT&T Stadium on Friday, Jan. 10.

## Longhorn's Cotton Bowl Record

In the past Texas Longhorns were synonymous with the Cotton Bowl Classic.

Texas is set to extend its all-time Cotton Bowl re-

LONGHORNS Page 4B

# Houston Texans to host playoff game Saturday following win over Titans



Houston Texans defensive end Derek Barnett (95) celebrates with teammates after returning a fumble for a touchdown against the Tennessee Titans during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Jan. 5, 2025, in Nashville, Tenn. (AP Photo/George Walker IV)

Reported by  
Associated Press

The Houston Texans gave what coach DeMeco Ryans wanted from their trip to Music City.

Leave with a win and a healthy roster before hosting an AFC wild-card game.

C.J. Stroud completed all six of his passes for 50 yards and a touchdown Sunday on the Texans' opening drive before going to the bench as Hous-

ton snapped a two-game skid with a 23-14 victory over the Tennessee Titans.

The Texans (10-7) also avoided being swept by the team they replaced in Houston. The Texans won for the first time since clinching their second straight AFC South title Dec. 15 with a win over Miami.

"We've earned a right to play postseason football, which is always our goal and now we're excited for whatever opportunity

comes next, whoever we'll play, not sure who that will be yet," Ryans said.

Houston had to wait to learn its playoff opponent. The AFC's No. 4 seeded Texans will be hosting the Los Angeles Chargers,

who beat the Raiders 34-20 later Sunday for the No. 5 seed. No TVs were on inside the Texans' locker room after the game.

"Great momentum heading to next week, and I feel like we needed that

home-field advantage," Pro Bowl wide receiver Nico Collins said of the Texans preparing for another home game. "There's no better feeling."

With the loss combined with New England's win

over Buffalo, the Titans' season of misery at least landed them the No. 1 pick overall in the NFL draft in April. Their 3-14 finish matches 2014 for the most losses in a season

HOUSTON Page 3B

# Cotton Bowl ticket prices soar, nosebleeds top Peach Bowl front row

Reported By  
USA Today

The Texas Longhorns and the Ohio State Buckeyes will face off in an epic clash at AT&T Stadium next Friday in the Cotton Bowl. The victor will advance to Atlanta and secure a spot in the 2024 College Football Playoff.

This game promises to be an absolute spectacle, with the Longhorns playing in what can be considered their "de facto" home game. On the other hand, Ohio State stands as argu-

ably the hottest and most talented team in the entire bracket. Interestingly, Longhorns quarterback Quinn Ewers initially chose Ohio State over Texas in high school, but later decided to return to the Lone Star State after one year.

How much will tickets cost? Currently, the entry fee on SeatGeek is \$354, which will secure you a spot in section 436, the highest tier at AT&T Stadium. In fact, the most ex-

COTTON Page 5B



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**OUTDOORS**

# Take a slower approach and don't run away from your fish

**OUTDOORS**  
**Capt. Chuck Uzzle**  
**For The Record**



**Chuck Uzzle**

Fishing too fast is a common problem that many anglers have, especially when the fish tend to gather up and school in big bunches. Saltwater anglers who chase schooling fish along with freshwater fishermen who also key in on flocks of birds over hungry groups of stripers, hybrids, and whites are perhaps the worst.

The frenzied activity puts everyone on the boat in high gear often leaving the majority of the water column untouched. It's a proven fact that smaller more aggressive fish will be the first to attack a bait so consequently the "speed fisherman" may never see what caliber of fish is really down under the surface. Savvy anglers will let a bait get down under the surface melee and are more often than not rewarded with better quality fish.

Saltwater enthusiasts often find better speckled trout and redfish down under all the small trout hustling shrimp and shad near the surface. By allowing the smaller fish to hit the bait and not setting the hook anglers can get down past the smaller fish to where the big boys play. Some anglers will actually crawl their baits along the bottom with very little action and catch some of the best fish out there, it's difficult to do but well worth the effort.

By taking the time to patiently work a school of fish with a slower retrieve and perhaps a little larger bait anglers can effectively cull out smaller fish. The smaller fish will peck at the larger baits while the better fish will usually strike them with a little more gusto. This slightly different approach proves itself out in some of the strangest ways. Think about how many times you have caught a fish while dragging bait and correcting a backlash, it makes you wonder. If we could see the baits we are fishing with underwater we would see how little of the actual area we are fishing, most of the time it's less than 2 feet deep. Burning a lure at a high speed has it's applications but it's awful hard to argue with the success that the slower approach produces.

Speaking of slower approaches one that comes to mind is dropping anchor on drifts instead of dropping buoy markers. In years past we would make long drifts down Sabine Lake, catch some fish, and repeat the drift only to catch fish in basically the same area. It was fishing on an escalator; you just went round and round until the fish quit biting. One day while fishing on Calcasieu I got schooled on a better way to go about this process from a local fisherman.

We were both fishing the same area only we were going about it differently. The local guy was sitting on an anchor while I continued to make drift after drift on the same line. After about 3 passes I hear the local guy say to his buddy in the boat "that guy has a beautiful boat, it's a shame he couldn't afford an anchor".

After that encounter I decided to try fishing like the locals and it has paid big dividends. If you watch these guys they keep the anchor real handy,

**CAPTAIN CHUCK Page 5B**

## Gulf Coast Fishing Reports- Winter Patterns

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 bayou 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 3/8 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 3/8 ounce gold spoon, topwaters, and 3/4 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 Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

• **Trinity Bay**

**SLOW.** 64 degrees. 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.** 61 degrees. Low outgoing tides have forced us to adjust our tactics, so we have concentrated back in the marsh and bayou areas where we can get some protection from the wind and wave action, as well as find enough water to fish effectively.

This redfish bite has been good around areas where good current flow has bait up against the shorelines and grass lines in 1-2 feet of water on shrimp imitation lures under Fish Smack popping corks with an 18 inch leader, as well as 3/8 ounce jig heads with Glow/Char-

treuse Deadly Dudley Rat Tails. Our best solid trout bite this week has been fishing deeper pockets with shell, close to mud flats, triggering the most strikes with WacAttack tales in Rollover Moon. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Service, LLC.

• **Galveston Bay**

**SLOW.** 66 degrees. Gas wells produced good numbers of trout during the warming trend. Upper Galveston bay is still good for black drum, sheepshead, speckled trout and a few redfish on soft plastics, better bite has been on live shrimp.

Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• **West Galveston Bay**

**GOOD.** 66 degrees. Deep shell reefs are fair for those throwing soft plastics in dirty streaks of water. Chocolate Bay and Bayou holding good numbers of trout, lots of under sized fish and scattered slot redfish. 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.** 63 degrees. Federal water snapper fishing remained solid through December. The season is now closed but non federally permitted boats and recreational anglers can enjoy state water snapper. Bull redfish are steady at the Galveston jetties. Flounder action spotty in the Galveston harbor. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

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## 'The Lakes' Fishing

• **Toledo Bend Fishing Report**

**FAIR.** Water normal stain; 58 degrees; 2.40 feet below pool. After the recent rains most of all the creeks are muddy and with water still coming in. The shallow bite is going to be hard with the dirty water, but chartreuse or orange colored spinnerbaits and chatterbaits always work great in the mud. The deep fish are going to be slow due to the rising water, but casting crankbaits, dropshots and spoons should land catches. Mid range fish are going to be best in 12-20 feet on Texas rigs, Carolina rigs and big crankbaits. There is a new moon coming this week which should get the female bass thinking about getting ready to make a move up. A cool down in the forecast with temperatures in the high 50s. No reports on crappie. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• **Sam Rayburn Fishing Reports**

**FAIR.** Water slightly stained; 60 degrees; 1.15 feet below pool. The lake level is on the rise due to the recent rain. The clarity is slightly muddy in the creeks and upriver. Bass are moving shallow into the bush with the new water. When you find grass, fish will be there. Bass are on the move upriver in shallow water with crankbaits and swim jigs. Crappie and white bass are going up 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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# Thoroughbreds: Beyond the racetrack

**Alex Cozzitorto**  
Texas A&M AgriLife

Shannon Reed, DVM, veterinary surgeon, clinical associate professor of large animal surgery in the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, has been awarded the American College of Veterinary Surgeons Foundation Lynn Wheaton Philanthropy Award, for her contributions to the Retired Racehorse Project.

The Retired Racehorse Project is a non-profit organization dedicated to increasing the demand for off-track Thoroughbreds in second careers through equestrian sports and serving the farms, trainers and organizations that transition them.

The project's flagship event is the Thoroughbred Makeover, where retired racehorses compete in 10 different disciplines, showcasing their athleticism beyond the racetrack.

"Dr. Reed's work exemplifies the profound impact individuals can have on animal welfare and industry practices," said Jennifer Schleining, Ph.D., clinical professor and head of the Department of Large Animal Clinical Sciences. "Through her dedication to the Thoroughbred Makeover in establishing the innovative arrival exam, she has championed the well-being of these remarkable

horses while inspiring future generations of equine veterinarians."

## The arrival exam: A groundbreaking initiative

Reed has been involved with retraining Thoroughbreds since her residency in large animal surgery at Oregon State University. In 2015, she deepened her commitment by attending her first Thoroughbred Makeover, initially working for a friend participating, and then returning as a competitor herself.

Through these experiences, she identified opportunities to elevate the standards of horse welfare at the makeover, and she accepted a challenge to join the project as its consulting veterinarian.

Her vision materialized into the arrival exam program implemented by the Thoroughbred Makeover in 2019. The exam, conducted on every horse before they participate, ensures they meet certain health and body condition requirements.

"This evaluation aids in dispelling one of the greatest misconceptions that all Thoroughbreds are skinny," Reed said. "By demonstrating most horses that arrive at the makeover exhibit a healthy body condition, it challenges this stereotype and emphasizes the importance of proper care and



The Thoroughbred Makeover also serves as a horse shopping opportunity through the ASPCA Makeover Marketplace.

nutrition for these athletes."

The arrival exam sets a precedent for equine health expectations at horse shows. It encourages trainers to prioritize their horses' well-being and has motivated other organizations to adopt similar protocols, ultimately improving horse welfare across the industry.

"Dr. Reed's unwavering dedication and support for second career opportunities for off-the-track Thoroughbreds has been a game-changer for the industry," said Craig Huffhines, director of the Texas A&M Institute for Equine Sciences. "Through her innovative approach to veterinary inspections, she has set a new standard for ensuring

the soundness and overall health of these remarkable athletes as they transition into their new roles, paving the way for brighter futures for both horses and their handlers."

## Inspiring the next generation of equine veterinarians

"It's no secret that there is a shortage of equine veterinarians in the United States, so I saw the opportunity to use the arrival exam as a platform for student engagement," Reed said.

She established a student volunteer program that welcomes veterinary students from across the U.S. and Canada to partic-

ipate in the Thoroughbred Makeover by helping conduct arrival exams of over 400 horses, providing them with valuable hands-on experience and mentorship.

The program has flourished, with over 80 alumni who have participated on the arrival exam team. It has become a highly sought-after experience, attracting 200-300 applications annually for just 20 spots. Since 2019, Reed has raised over \$60,000 to provide a travel stipend to students accepted into the program.

"The program's welcoming atmosphere creates a space where students, regardless of their background, can explore the possibilities in equine veterinary medicine

through a hands-on learning experience," Reed said. "The students shadow experienced equine veterinarians who volunteer their time to help cultivate the next generation of equine veterinarians."

## Positive change in the equine industry

Beyond the immediate benefits of the arrival exam, Reed's contributions to the Thoroughbred Makeover have broader implications for the equine industry. The arrival exam has led to peer-reviewed research that looks at what happens to Thoroughbred racehorses after they leave the track.

"The average lifespan of a Thoroughbred horse is between 25 and 30 years, and they will typically stop racing at 4 to 6 years of age, so that leaves about 20 years of opportunity for a second career," Reed said.

This exposure expands their marketability beyond racing, offering them a chance at a fulfilling life after their racing days are over.

"By promoting the American Thoroughbred as a capable and adaptable horse, the program contributes to the overall health and vitality of the U.S. horse industry," Reed said.

# "Bevo" Texas' live longhorn mascot missed the Peach Bowl but will be back for Cotton Bowl

Reported By  
247Sports.com

Bevo is going to the Cotton Bowl.

After being denied access to Atlanta's Mercedes-Benz Stadium, where Texas played in the SEC Championship game on Dec. 7 as well as in a 39-31 double-overtime victory over Arizona State in the Peach Bowl on Jan. 1, Texas' live longhorn mascot Bevo XV will be at the Cotton Bowl for Texas' College Football Playoff semifinal against Ohio State at AT&T Stadium in Arlington on Jan. 10 at 6:30 pm CT, Texas executive senior associate athletic director Drew Martin said Friday.

"We have worked with the Cotton Bowl and stadium officials to develop a plan that will allow Bevo into the stadium for the game," Martin said.

Unfortunately for Texas, it's been an on-again, off-again situation for the largest live mascot in college athletics to be in attendance when the Longhorns have taken the field this postseason.

Texas has played three postseason games, but the only one Bevo could attend, was the Longhorns' 38-24 home first-round CFP win over Clemson at Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium, affectionately known as DKR, on Dec. 21. So, Texas is 1-0 with Bevo and 1-1 without him.

When it comes to Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Bevo's size really has mattered.

Texas officials were told, at 1,700 pounds and with longhorns that measure 58 inches from tip to tip, Bevo and his enclosure are too big to fit safely beyond the sidelines around the

field inside Mercedes-Benz Stadium, which is also hosting the CFP national championship game on Jan. 20.

SEC officials explained why Bevo's presence was denied for the league title game:

"When we received the request for Bevo to be on the sideline in Mercedes-Benz Stadium, our staff looked at several alternatives including the sideline location. The reality is there is limited sideline space at the stadium.

"We can't jeopardize the safety of Bevo or the game participants. With the narrow sidelines, location of multiple sets for television and camera carts, there is not enough space. While we want to honor tradition across the conference, the space limitation is reality."

Thus, under current conditions, it's unlikely Bevo would ever be allowed to accompany the Longhorns to the SEC's football championship game as long as the game is being held at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, which has hosted the SEC Championship game since 2017 and is currently under contract to host it through 2031.

After losing to Georgia, 22-19 in overtime in the SEC Championship game on Dec. 7 at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, the Longhorns headed back to Atlanta - this time for a College Football Playoff quarterfinal against Arizona State in the Peach Bowl.

And for the second time this postseason, Bevo's size was blamed for Texas' live mascot being denied access.

"The reality is, as much



Texas' live longhorn mascot Bevo XV will be at the Cotton Bowl for Texas' College Football Playoff semifinal against Ohio State at AT&T Stadium in Arlington on Jan. 10 at 6:30 pm CT.

as we would love to be able to do it, the sideline space at Mercedes-Benz Stadium

just does not have the space that we need to erect his enclosure," Peach Bowl

communications director Matt Garvey said. "And so, for the safety of Bevo and

the players and the media and the camera crews that are on site there, it doesn't look like we're going to be able to accommodate him."

Everything's bigger in Texas, including Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones' AT&T Stadium, where the Cotton Bowl has been played since January 2010 and where there is extended space beyond the sidelines, especially beyond the end zones, for big ol' Bevo and his enclosure.

Texas will be making its first appearance in the Cotton Bowl since the 2002 season, when the Longhorns beat LSU, 35-20, on Jan. 1, 2003, when the game was still being played at the Cotton Bowl stadium, where Texas plays Oklahoma in the Red River Shootout every October.

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# Here's your 2025 guide to the night sky and other celestial wow moments

## Staff Report For The Record

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The new year will bring a pair of lunar eclipses, but don't expect any sun-disappearing acts like the one that mesmerized North America last spring.

While the world will have to wait until 2026 for the next total solar eclipse, the cosmos promises plenty of other wow moments in 2025. It's kicking off the year with a six-planet parade in January that will be visible for weeks. Little Mercury will join the crowd for a seven-planet lineup in February.

Five planets already are scattered across the sky — all but Mars and Mercury — though binoculars or telescopes are needed to spot some of them just after sunset.

"People should go out and see them sometime during the next many weeks. I cer-

tainly will," said the Planetary Society's chief scientist Bruce Betts.

Here's a sneak peek of what's ahead:

### ECLIPSES

The moon will vanish for more than an hour over North and South America on March 14, followed two weeks later by a partial solar eclipse visible from Maine, eastern Canada, Greenland, Europe, Siberia and northwestern Africa.

The cosmic double-header will repeat in September with an even longer total lunar eclipse over Europe, Asia, Africa and Australia, and a partial solar eclipse two weeks later near the bottom of the world.

### SUPERMOONS

Three supermoons are on tap this year in October, November and December.

The full moon will look particularly big and bright

those three months as it orbits closer to Earth than usual.

November's supermoon will come closest, passing within 221,817 miles (356,980 kilometers). Last year featured four supermoons, wrapping up in November.

### PLANET PARADE

Six of our seven neighboring planets will line up in the sky to form a long arc around mid-January. All but Neptune and Uranus should be visible with the naked eye just after sunset, weather permitting.

The parade will continue for weeks, with some of the planets occasionally snuggling up. Mercury will make a cameo appearance by the end of February. The planets will gradually exit, one by one, through spring.

### NORTHERN AND-SOUTHERN LIGHTS



Three supermoons are on tap this year in October, November and December. The full moon will look particularly big and bright those three months as it orbits closer to Earth than usual.

The sun burped big time last year, painting the sky with gorgeous auroras in unexpected places.

Space weather forecasters anticipate more geomagnetic storms that could

yield even more northern and southern lights.

That's because the sun has reached its solar maximum during its current 11-year cycle that could continue through this year.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Shawn Dahl urges everyone to stay on top of space weather news, so as not to miss any pop-up, razzle-dazzle shows.

### METEOR SHOWERS

The Perseids and Geminids are perennial crowd-pleasers, peaking in August and December, respectively. But don't count out the smaller, less dramatic meteor showers like the Lyrids in April, the Orionids in October and the Leonids in November.

The darker the locale and dimmer the moon, the better it will be for viewing. Meteor showers are generally named for the constellation in which they appear to originate. They occur whenever Earth plows through streams of debris left behind by comets and sometimes asteroids.

## Houston Texans From Page 1B

since relocating from Texas to Tennessee in 1997.

"It's not a position I ever want to be in again," first-year Titans coach Brian Callahan said of holding the top overall pick.

Ryans said he would decide how long his starters played based on how the game went.

Stroud needed 11 plays and 7:17 on a drive capped with a 2-yard TD pass to Collins for a lead Houston never lost.

Pro Bowl running back

Joe Mixon had five carries on that drive, then his day was done. Mixon turned cheerleader running down the sideline with a ballcap as Dameon Pierce took his second carry 92 yards for his second rushing TD of the season early in the second quarter for a 13-0 lead.

Pierce finished with a career-high 176 yards rushing. Mixon had 23 yards and surpassed 1,000 for the fifth season in his career.

One of the biggest cheers from the thin crowd on a

rainy, cold day came when former University of Tennessee quarterback Joe Milton's 48-yard TD pass putting the Patriots up 14-7 was shown on the video board.

Ka'imi Fairbairn finished the first half with a 27-yard field goal, putting the Texans up 16-3.

Tennessee gave second-year quarterback Will Levis his 12th start this season. Callahan kept his promise to rotate, putting in veteran Mason Rudolph

on the fourth possession. Rudolph guided the Titans to a pair of field goals by Matthew Wright.

Levis had the better day despite a botched handoff returned for a fumble. He

finished with 175 yards passing and a 49-yard TD pass to Tay Martin with 2:41 left.

Defensive end Derek Barnett got the ball on a botched handoff by Levis to

Tony Pollard early in the fourth and went 36 yards for the TD and a 23-6 lead. It was Barnett's second such return for a TD this season and third of his career. He also had a sack.

## Cotton Bowl tickets From Page 1B

pensive seat at the Peach Bowl, located in the front rows along the 50-yard line, cost almost the same as the nosebleed seats at the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic. For comparison,

those seats at AT&T Stadium would be in the C135 section, which is the Hall of Fame Club or the Owner's Club at Jerry's World. Those will run you around \$1,800 on SeatGeek.

The Texas Longhorns and Ohio State Buckeyes are set for kickoff in the Cotton Bowl on Friday January 10th at 6:30pm. If you can't make the game you can catch it on ESPN.

## Longhorns in Cotton Bowl From Page 1B

cord for appearances to 23 when it plays Ohio State in a College Football Playoff semifinal at AT&T Stadium in Arlington.

However, this will be the Longhorns' first trip to the Cotton Bowl Classic since Jan. 1, 2003.

Here are all 23 Cotton Bowl Classic results for the Longhorns.

- Jan. 1, 1943: Texas 14, Georgia Tech 7
- Jan. 1, 1944: Texas 7, Randolph Field 7
- Jan. 1, 1946: Texas 40, Missouri 27

- Jan. 1, 1951: Tennessee 20, Texas 14
- Jan. 1, 1953: Texas 16, Tennessee 0
- Jan. 1, 1960: Syracuse 23, Texas 14
- Jan. 1, 1962: Texas 12, Ole Miss 7
- Jan. 1, 1963: LSU 13, Texas 0
- Jan. 1, 1964: Texas 28, Navy 6
- Jan. 1, 1969: Texas 36, Tennessee 13
- Jan. 1, 1970: Texas 21, Notre Dame 17
- Jan. 1, 1971: Notre Dame 24, Texas 11
- Jan. 1, 1972: Penn State

- 30, Texas 6
- Jan. 1, 1973: Texas 17, Alabama 14
- Jan. 1, 1974: Nebraska 19, Texas 3
- Jan. 2, 1978: Notre Dame 38, Texas 10
- Jan. 1, 1982: Texas 14, Alabama 12
- Jan. 1, 1984: Georgia 10, Texas 9
- Jan. 1, 1991: Miami 46, Texas 3
- Jan. 1, 1999: Texas 20, Mississippi State 11
- Jan. 1, 2000: Arkansas 27, Texas 6
- Jan. 1, 2003: Texas 35, LSU 20

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# Why more frequent cold blasts could be coming from global warming

Seth Borenstein  
Reported by  
Associated Press

Frigid air that normally stays trapped in the Arctic has escaped, plunging deep into the United States for an extended visit that is expected to provoke teeth-chattering but not record-shattering.

It's a cold air outbreak that some experts say is happening more frequently, and paradoxically, because of a warming world. Such cold air blasts have become known as the polar vortex. It's a long-established weather term that's become mainstream as its technical meaning changed a bit on the way.

What it really means to average Americans in areas where the cold air comes: brrrrr.

What's happening is the jet stream — that usually west-to-east river of air way above ground that moves weather systems along — has made a roller-coaster like dip from the Pacific Northwest to the Southeast and is stuck on that way track. To the west of that plunge, in California, it's hot and dry. But to the east and just above the dip, it's a taste of the North Pole.

"We're just getting a lot of cold Canadian and Arctic air that's being just channeled from north to south," said Dan DePodwin, AccuWeather director of forecast operations. "We really expect this to be more of a prolonged stretch of well below historical average temperatures. We're talking 12 to 25 degrees Fahrenheit (7 to 14 degrees Celsius) across a large portion of the eastern half of the country."

The worst will be in areas that just got hit with heavy snow, from Kansas to Washington, said National Weather Service Weather Prediction Center meteorologist Zack Taylor: "That's where we could see actual overnight lows down well into the single digits, perhaps even below zero in some places across the Ohio Valley and the Plains."

Judah Cohen, seasonal forecast director at the private firm Atmospheric and Environmental Research, called this a polar vortex event. He and DePodwin called it a stretching of the polar vortex, which is cold air normally penned in high above the Arctic that's there year round.

"Think of it as like a rubber band at rest, kind of roundish," Cohen said. "If



It's a cold air outbreak that some experts say is happening more frequently, and paradoxically, because of a warming world. Such cold air blasts have become known as the polar vortex.

you start pulling on it, it gets elongated like a hot dog or like pulling on a rubber band. It gets stretched out."

When the polar vortex stretches it can either bring that cold air south to the United States or toward Asia, said Cohen, an expert in winter weather.

Other times, when something called sudden stratospheric warming happens, the polar vortex moves away from the Arctic and comes south or even splits. That's not the case this

time, Cohen said.

Other meteorologists, including Yale Climate Connections' Jeff Masters, along with National Weather Service Climate Prediction Center meteorologist Laura Ciasto, who co-writes the agency's "polar vortex blog," say the polar vortex term is being misused. Technically, the polar vortex is 20 miles high in the stratosphere. And what's happening right now is down lower.

These type of polar vor-

tex disruptions — stretching or moving entirely out of the North Pole — are happening more frequently, according to a study last month by Cohen, Woodwell Climate Research Center scientist Jennifer Francis and others.

"There's a climate change signal in that," Francis said.

The Arctic is warming four times faster than the rest of the world, which means the difference between temperatures up north and down south are

shrinking, Francis said. Arctic sea ice is shrinking, especially near the Barents Sea in Scandinavia, which releases more heat into atmosphere. That means more energy bouncing off and warping or moving the polar vortex, Cohen said.

DePodwin, who was not part of the study, said that makes sense because of these changes in the Arctic "the jet stream seems like in a warming world may be more amplified."

Yet winters globally are on average 1.1 degrees Fahrenheit (0.6 degrees Celsius) warmer than 25 years ago, according to National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration data. There can be more cold outbreaks and warmer winters at the same time, DePodwin said.

"Keep in mind that this is a small part of the whole climate, a couple of weeks of weather in a small part of the Northern Hemisphere," DePodwin said, noting that climate change is years and decades across the globe. "Climate change does not mean that we will expect to see no more cold weather. It just means that the average temperature overall is going up and we still expect to see colder shots."

## Captain Chuck From Page 1B

one or two bites in the same area and they ease the anchor overboard and fish the area thoroughly. Usually these patient fishermen wind up catching more fish while others who continue to drift just miss out on the action. I am sold on the technique because it works; we really use it in the spring down

on the south end of Sabine.

Taking the slower approach one step farther by learning how to properly anchor in places where you may be in deeper water can be critical to success. One day many years ago, Dickie Colburn and I were fishing a stretch of the Sabine River where we knew

a herd of Redfish had been hanging around. For some reason we couldn't find them until we adjusted our position on the anchor by letting out about 30 feet of line and slipping right into the perfect spot. Our adjustment put us into casting range but kept us off the big concentration of fish; any other set

up would result in either spooking the fish or not getting bit and both of those options don't sound good at all. By adjusting our position we were able to cast over a submerged point where the redfish were ganged up escaping the current. The extra room on our casts finally allowed the bait to reach the fish that we knew were there, we were just off the mark by a few feet. Sometimes that few feet can be

the difference between a great day and a zero.

During the coming months your patience and abilities will be tested not only by the elements and the fish as well. A more controlled approach will pay huge dividends. It never fails this time of year, everybody hears about how good the fishing is and how easy it is to catch fish so the thundering herd collapses on the coast. Regular anglers

know this is coming so they adjust accordingly and make due until the crowds cease. Remember there are plenty of fish out there for everyone so stay clam and patient because fishing is our sanctuary and the actions of someone else should never be allowed to ruin that. Enjoy the fishing and be sure to share the outdoors with someone who may not know just how wonderful it really is.

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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:  
**DON FRANKS**  
243 J and K Lane  
Crawfordville, Florida  
32327

Dated the 7th day of January, 2025.

*Tommy Gunn*  
Tommy Gunn

Attorney for:  
**Don Franks**  
State Bar No.: 08623700  
202 S. Border Street  
Orange, TX 77630  
Phone: (409)882-9990  
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### STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: SNOW DAY

ACROSS DOWN

- Larger-than-life
- Odds' partners
- Capone's family
- Tubby little cubby
- Wild swine
- "He's Just Not That \_\_\_\_ You"
- Deal with it
- Of the same period
- Cunningly
- \*Popular Snow Day pastime
- Shower with affection
- Some tournaments
- Allege
- City in Belgium
- \*Snow Day exercise?
- Poet Pound
- Deed hearing
- Ovine sign of the zodiac
- Algae, sing.
- Tasseled hat
- \_\_\_\_ Jack, English pirate
- All together (2 words)
- \*As opposed to rain
- Military College of South Carolina, with The
- Irregular
- For every
- Musketeers' swords
- a.k.a. association football
- High-strung
- \*All-day Snow Day garb?
- Cerebellum location
- Delete
- Unit of life
- Crude fuel
- Students' dwellings
- Read-only disc
- \*Snow Day reading choice
- Good's counterpart
- Helping theorem
- Popular flowering shrub
- Female ancestor
- \*Like soft pj's
- Two heads are better than one, e.g.
- Intelligence org.
- Bering Strait state
- \*Slope fun, e.g. California
- Rudolph's Clarice, e.g.
- Number of years
- Like thick smoke
- Horse of certain color, pl.
- Fountain option
- Spontaneous additions
- \*No two are alike, sing.
- Obtuse one
- Surround (2 words)
- Tom Cruise's "The \_\_\_\_ of Monday"
- Tangerine plus grapefruit
- Highway hauler
- \*Like a river, with over
- Bad sign
- #51 Down, pl.
- Of a particular kind
- Heidi's "Magic Wooden Shoe"
- Smoothie berry
- Olufsen's partner
- Superman's last name
- Sound of a bell
- Part of a seat
- Not him
- \*Like chocolate on a Snow Day
- Surfer's stop

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