

# County Record

Vol. 65 No. 33

Distributed FREE in Orange County, Texas

Week of Wednesday, January 15, 2025

## Orange to spend half-million in grants

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

The economy is booming in Orange as the city council has approved three new economic development grants, including a new apartment complex. Also, the city will be spending a half-million dollars on improvements to the Riverside Pavilion and Boat Ramp area.

The money for the improvements to the recreational area will come from the city's Hotel Occupancy Tax paid by people who stay in local hotels and motels. The city's public works department

reports the Pavilion and Boat Ramp have been "key assets" to promote tourism and the local hotel business.

The acreage off Simmons Drive and along the Sabine River has become the site of numerous community activities with the pavilion providing covered space with a stage to host events and concerts in the rain.

BassMasters professional fishing tournaments have drawn tens of thousands of people to the Boat Ramp area to watch the pros and enjoy a festival with live entertainment. BassMasters is set

to return this year May 16-18.

Safety improvements for pedestrians in the project will be to install double entry gates to Simmons Field and install a

10-foot sidewalk for the gate. Electrical power will be expanded with 16 high-voltage connections at the Boat Ramp and 18 normal-voltage connections down the old De-

stroyer Drive where food trucks and vendors set up during festivals. In addition, the city plans on installing 24 yard faucets and install a "gray water" system.

The city's separate Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors met before the city council and approved the

**Orange Page 3A**

## County has closings, march to honor MLK

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

Orange County will be commemorating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Monday, January 20, with a traditional march and activities. Also, some local public offices will be closed, along with federal and state offices.

The Orange County Courthouse will be closed as will city offices in Orange and Pinehurst. All non-emergency employees in the county, and for Orange and Pinehurst will have the day off,

though law enforcement and fire protection will be on regular duty. Regular garage service will continue.

State offices, including the Texas Department of Public Safety driver's license bureau, will be closed. The U.S. Postal Service will not be delivering mail that day and the post offices will be closed.

The Orange Chapter of the NAACP will be having its annual march with the theme of Renew, Commit, Dream. The march

**MLK Page 3A**

## West Orange considering charter change election

**MARGARET TOAL**  
For The Record

City of West Orange voters may be getting a chance this year to vote on whether to double the years in a term of city council members.

The West Orange City Council is considering whether to call a city charter change election to expand each term for mayor and six councilors to increase from two years to four years.

The city council under Mayor Randy Branch on Monday discussed the positive and negative effects that changing the length of terms would have. However, the council decided to table a decision for the next meeting.

City council and school board races across Texas will be on May 3. West Orange City Secretary Theresa Van Meter said the deadline to call a special election for that day will be February 14. The next city council meeting

will be on February 10, so the council, if members choose, could have the charter change on the ballot with the council races.

Even if a charter change election is on the ballot for this year, the 2025 elections will remain the same. The West Orange City Council has six at-large council members plus the mayor. Each of the seven members serves a term of two years.

Positions open this year will be for mayor, currently held by Randy Branch, plus two at-large positions, one held by Brent Dearing and the now held by Meritta Kennedy, who also serves as mayor pro-tem.

Filings for the 2025 city council election starts Wednesday, January 15, and runs through Friday, February 14. Candidates may file with City Secretary Van Meter during regular business hours at the West Orange City Hall.



State Rep. Dustin Burrows (R-Lubbock) shakes hands with Rep. Jeff Leach, R-Plano, during opening day ceremonies on the House floor on Tuesday, Jan. 14th, 2025. Photo Credit: Bob Daemmrich for The Texas Tribune

## Rep. Dustin Burrows voted new Texas House speaker

**JAMES BARRAGÁN**  
The Texas Tribune

Rep. Dustin Burrows, R-Lubbock, was elected speaker of the Texas House on Tuesday, concluding a bitter and intense power struggle within the Republican party that came down to an extraordinary floor vote to decide who would fill one of the most powerful positions in state government.

In his acceptance speech, Burrows said he would work with each member of the House to make this a successful session.

"Whether you voted for me or not, my office door will be open to you," he said.

Burrows' win marks a disappointing defeat for the insurgent wing of the party, which has spent years working to wrest control of the lower chamber away from es-

tablishment Republicans. That faction, which aims to push the House further to the right, ousted more than a dozen GOP members in last year's primaries who were aligned with Burrows and his predecessor, Rep. Dade Phelan of Beaumont, riding a wave of conservative backlash over the House's impeachment of Attorney General Ken Paxton and failure to pass a private school voucher bill.

After the record turnover, hardline conservatives saw this year's speaker race as perhaps their best chance ever to depose the current House leadership. They selected as their standard-bearer Rep. David Cook of Mansfield, who vowed to follow through on insurgent demands to strip power from Democrats — including barring them from chairing committees — and weaken the speaker's means of controlling the chamber.

But while the insurgent crowd succeeded in forcing Phelan to give up the gavel, the elevation of his close ally signals a similar power structure will likely remain in place.

Burrows won the speaker's race after two rounds of voting, edging out Cook by a vote of 85-55. His winning coalition was made up of 49 Democrats and 36 Republicans, drawing instant backlash from hardline members and activists who vowed revenge in next year's primaries.

"Today, the RINO (anti-MAGA) Establishment laughed in the faces of our Republican grassroots. They chose Democrat chairs and Lobbyist buddies over their voters," Rep. Shelley Luther, a freshman Republican who had vowed to oppose the Phelan-Burrows

**New Texas House Page 3A**

## Indie Filmmakers invited to compete in the Texas Film Belt Project based in OC

**LARRY JOHNSON**  
For The Record

While location scouting at Gladys City Boomtown for the short film "Spindletop: The Beginning" in 2019, Orange County filmmaker Penny LeLeux had a vision.

A map of Texas popped into her head. She noticed how Interstate 10 traveled all the way across Texas at what would be the belt line, if the state of Texas was a living entity.

She also saw that along that belt line there was any type of landscape you could imagine. You have the swamps and forests in Southeast Texas, plus access to the Gulf coast. If



Penny LeLeux is an Orange County filmmaker that conceived the idea of the Texas Film Belt Project kicking off in 2025.

you travel further west, you get into the flatlands and prairies. Even further west you get into desert and caverns. The Rocky Mountains start in the extreme west in El Paso.

You have big cities of Houston and San Antonio and smaller towns like Orange, Luling and Seguin. Whatever type of population you are looking for can be found along that route.

In her vision, she saw the highway turn into a film strip and a cowboy hat hanging off the panhandle.

"That's how the logo came about," said LeLeux.

**Texas Film Page 3A**

## Texas Film Belt Project From Page 1

“Most of my ideas come in the form of images.”

That was the birth of the Texas Film Belt Project.

The idea wasn't quite complete, there were still some components missing that didn't fall into place until just a couple of months ago. This idea has been percolating for five years in her head.

In the meantime, LeLeux has spent the last five years working on several film projects, winning awards at festivals for producing, directing, writing and acting.

“It's really not that big of a deal, but it looks good on paper,” she said. “We have built our ‘street cred’ over the last few years.”

“I had the idea for the Texas Film Belt Project basing it on the Louisiana Film Prize which is a competition for short films that had to be shot in a specific geographical section of Louisiana and there is a huge cash prize.”

LeLeux said the cash prize has been part of the holdup...where to get the money.

She finally realized, since this is a new competition, it

did not necessarily have to be part of it. The other component to the idea was the key. She planned to form a traveling film block of the top 12 films entered that would screen along the Interstate 10 corridor.

She did feel incorporating the geolocation requirement for the films was important to the project.

- They must be shot in Texas, within 50 miles of Interstate 10. That gives filmmakers an 877 x 100-mile strip within which to film.

- At least one scene must feature the highway in some way, such as driving on it, or having a scene at a business sitting along the freeway.

- There will be a maximum time limit of 10 minutes per film, including credits.

- A \$1,000 prize will be awarded for the best film in the competition that is shot in Orange County.

“That's just an extra incentive to shoot it here. This is where the program is based, so of course I would love to see more films created here,” said

LeLeux. “But they can be shot anywhere along I-10 within those parameters, it just won't be eligible for the \$1,000 if it is shot elsewhere in Texas.”

“Postproduction can be done from their home base, anywhere.”

The goal of the project is to spur more filmmaking along the Interstate 10 corridor.

These are for Indie narrative projects only because another aspect that recently fell into place is that she will attempt to seek distribution for the top 12 as an anthology film with Interstate 10 as the thread that connects them.

“Short films don't have the same distribution opportunities as features, but if we combine them into an anthology, you have essentially created a feature film.”

If she is successful, each of the filmmakers in the anthology will get a percentage of the distribution funds. The entertainment lawyer she is working with has done distribution deals in the past and is in favor of the idea.

“It of course puts additional requirements on the filmmakers as there are ‘deliverables’ that the filmmakers would have to provide to seal the deal. If they can't provide the requirements needed, they might have to be removed from the anthology for it to proceed. That will be on a case-by-case basis,” said LeLeux.

She acknowledged if they manage to get the first deal, it should make it easier to get distribution down the line and suggested if there were sufficient suitable entries, they could do genre editions, such as comedy or horror...if they manage to get that first distribution deal.

Submissions should be set up on Filmfreeway, “hopefully by the end of the month,” but LeLeux wants to get the word out, because there will be a short deadline for 2025.

“Final submission deadline will be Aug. 31, 2025, because the initial screening event will be held in Orange on Sept. 20, 2025,” she said.

LeLeux hopes to have it in the newly renovated Jeff

Hattman Center for the Performing Arts as it should be open by then, but currently as a backup, she has the Orange Train Depot reserved, just in case Orange Community Players has an issue getting the theater open.

“The premiere screening will always be held whatever Saturday falls between Sept. 16-23 each year,” said LeLeux. “The 16th is the day my sister Joy passed away and the 23rd is my birthday. They say your life is lived in the dash, so I'm putting the event in our dash. It's a way to honor my sister. She would be in the middle of this if she were still here.”

On Sept. 20, the top 30-50 films will be screened and the top 12 will be announced in a one-day event. Winners will receive a custom belt buckle. The top 12 films will become a traveling film block that will screen in a minimum of five locations across the I-10 corridor.

The Lake Charles Film Festival and the Boomtown Film and Music Festival in Beaumont have already

shown interest in screening the block next year. LeLeux is also in talks with a group in Houston that may screen it. She also hopes to secure a screening in both San Antonio and El Paso.

There will also be a K-12 competition with a maximum time-limit of five minutes. The top five will be recognized in September, but they will not be included in the traveling block.

“We want to encourage youngsters to fulfill their movie making dreams as well.”

The projects would also promote film destination tourism along Interstate 10.

“People visit locations of their favorite films. The anthology could inspire road trips along the Texas Film Belt,” said LeLeux. “At least I hope so.”

The project is under the umbrella of Barefoot on the Bayou Film Group, a new nonprofit organized by LeLeux. Besides promoting filmmaking in Orange County and Southeast Texas, LeLeux also hopes to build a studio in Orange County.

## New Texas House speaker From Page 1

leadership team, wrote on social media. “I look forward to seeing if they're still laughing after the next round of primaries. The fight starts today.”

During the first round,

Rep. Ana-Maria Rodriguez-Ramos, a Richardson Democrat who also submitted her name for the speaker's gavel, received 23 votes from fellow Democratic members — enough to keep

Burrows and Cook from reaching the majority threshold of 76.

In the ensuing runoff round, twelve Democrats who had voted for Rodriguez-Ramos switched their

votes to Burrows. He also netted two more GOP votes from members who defected from Cook.

Burrows' support from Democrats will likely become major ammunition for his Republican critics aligned with the party's right wing who warned that the new speaker should be chosen by a majority of GOP votes. It's unlikely that Republicans will completely unite behind Burrows despite his win. Many of his critics have promised to go after Republicans who supported Burrows in the primary, and the Republican Party of Texas has vowed to censure those members who broke from Cook.



### The Record Newspapers

**of Orange County, Texas**

The Record Newspapers- The County Record and the Penny Record- are published on Wednesday of each week and distributed free throughout greater Orange County, Texas. The publications feature community news, local sports, commentary and much more. Readers may also read each issue of our papers from our web site TheRecordLive.Com.

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Orange native Tad McKee, president and CEO of the Stark Foundation, was named Citizen of the Year last week by the Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce. McKee, shown in the middle, was given the award during the chamber's annual banquet held at the Orange County Expo Center.

To the far left is Chamber President Ida Schossow, and County Judge John Gothia is on the far right. During the banquet and awards, Stacey Brister, superintendent of the LC-M CISD was given the gavel to become chairman of the board. Mathews Jewelers Orange, owned by Tina and Jesse Romero, was given the business community service award, and Be Blessed Orange County, started by Rita Ballard, was named non-profit organization of the year.



Laura Hughes and Zoe Henning won first places at Little Cypress-Mauriceville High School for the annual Stark Reading Contest. Hughes will compete in the declamation competition and Henning in the interpretive reading category for the Countywide Stark Reading Contest finals at the Lutcher Theater at 6 p.m. February 6. Each school category winner gets \$2,500 in scholarships and each school second place winner gets \$2,000 in scholarships. The LCM school-wide finalists were bottom row, left to right, Jaiden Romar, Caroline Claybar, and Annabelle Claybar (second place in declamation.) Top row, left to right, are Brinley Anthony, Isaac Pinder, Laura Hughes (first declamation), Shayne Pannell, Paige McKee (second place interpretive reading), and Zoe Henning (first interpretive reading).

# Case of whooping cough reported in Orange County

MARGARET TOAL  
For The Record

Orange County Health Services announced Tuesday the county has its first confirmed case of pertussis, also known as whooping cough. The respiratory illness is particularly dangerous for infants and babies.

The news comes after Hardin County reported

11 cases in December and the Texas Department of State Health Services, which tracks the cases, reported three times as many cases in November 2024 to November 2023.

The illness is caused by a bacterium in the respiratory system and can be prevented through a common childhood vaccine. The beginning symptoms are similar to those of the

common cold with a runny nose, mild fever, sneezing, and mild coughing.

However, as the illness progresses, the patient will develop "violent and rapid" coughing fits. The term "whooping cough" comes from the sound sometimes made after a violent coughing attack. The air in the lungs has all been expelled and a "whoop" sound is occasionally

made. The coughing in infants can lead to apnea, a condition where they stop breathing.

The illness is considered highly contagious as people breathe in tiny droplets in the air spread by sick people coughing or sneezing. Pertussis, or whooping cough, symptoms may be so mild in adults and teens who have been vaccinated they think they have a cold and may spread the illness to others, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

## Orange grants From Page 1

grants for the businesses. Then the city council met and gave the final approval to those grants that will be used for infrastructure for new projects and improvements to existing businesses.

The money for the economic development grants comes from a special sales tax citizens approved in a 2002 election. When a grant is approved, the owner completes the work in the project first and then submits the receipts to the city for reimburse-

ment.

The new apartment complex is to be named Bowling Village Apartments and be constructed at 3320 Bowling Lane, at the west end of the residential street near Martin Luther King Jr. Drive. The project by Newton Core LLC is getting a maximum \$120,000.

Also, ACE Business Park LLC will be getting \$100,000 for its site at 4200 FM 105.

Businessman Nash Kherany has bought an

older office-shop building called Awesome Plaza at 1509 16th Street near Kroger. He got a grant of up to \$29,000 to improve the building, including the addition of fencing.

The Economic Development Corporation Board and council also approved changing a grant for the new Christus Hospital-Orange from the hospital corporation to a different company. The approved \$50,000 is to install a canopy at the medical offices entrance.

## MLK closures schedule From Page 1

will begin this year at 10 a.m. at the Orange County Courthouse and then go through downtown to the Mount Olive Baptist Church Life Center at 106 West Park Avenue. From 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. there will be an open program,

and then a lunch. A bounce house and other activities will be provided for children.

The march is open to all interested people and they should begin gathering at the courthouse at 9:30 a.m. to get organized be-

fore the march.

The Reverend John Jefferson, Jr., is present of the Orange NAACP. Maquettia Ledet is vice president, Beverly Robinson is secretary, and Margaret Adams is treasurer.

The family of Susie Repasky invite you to join us for Birthday Cake on her 100th Birthday



Date: Jan. 18, 2025

Time: 2-4 p.m.

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## From the Creaux's Nest

### THANK YOU MR. PRESIDENT

As Joe Biden leaves office the U.S. economy is the envy of the world. Remember that when Biden came into office the U.S. economy was in such bad shape that a recession was widely forecast by Republicans and Democrats. Four years later, no recession ever gripped the American economy thanks to Biden. And the job market flourished under Biden. Unemployment hit record lows. The recession never happened. And inflation is coming down. Biden ended America's longest war, the war in Afghanistan. Biden said in his 2021 speech announcing the withdrawal, "No amount of military force would ever deliver a stable, united, and secure Afghanistan, known in history as the 'graveyard of empires.'" Also on the scorecard is Biden's remarkable leadership in fighting Russian aggression against Ukraine without putting U.S. troops in danger. Biden's steadfast support for Ukraine also sent a clear message to China about U.S. commitments to defend Taiwan. Biden also upheld America's longstanding alliance with Israel at great political cost as Israel stirred global anger by exercising little restraint in going after the terrorist group Hamas. The scorecard shows big domestic wins for Biden. He beat back an attempted insurrection by Donald Trump after the 2020 election. Biden steadily held to the principle of free and fair elections. His decision to stay in the 2024 race until a disastrous debate performance was a big mistake born of ego and opened the door to Trump's return. The scrappy kid from Scranton made America a better place. Americans may find themselves longing for the Biden years. They may even ask him, or his capable vice president, to step back into the fray and save the nation once more. For now, we owe Joe Biden our gratitude. Thank you, Mr. President, for a job well done. History will show that Biden is the best one-term president in our history. His accomplishments will be years in the making and its outstanding results will benefit citizens far into the future.

### CONDOLENCES Doris Mildred Wood

We were saddened to learn of the passing of Doris Wood, age 92, of Bridge City on January 6, 2025. She was a wonderful lady and loved by those who knew her. Please see obituary.

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

The first college national championship game is now in the record book. In the end it wasn't even close. The Ohio State Buckeyes, the underdog, whipped up on the Oregon Ducks 42-20. Never bet against coach Urban Meyer. Give him a couple of years and he'll end up with the best high school talent in the country. One such player is running back Ezekiel Elliott who ran all over that big pasture, from one end to the other. His total effort was 246 yards and four touchdowns. The Buckeyes overcame four turnovers to give Urban Meyer his third national championship with two at Florida. Gone but not forgotten: A longtime special friend Inez Memphis Duplisse Hearn, 96, passed away Sunday, Jan. 11, 2015. We had known this wonderful lady for over 50 years. Over the last few years we visited about the times she and the late Fain Holbrook worked together at Orange Montgomery Ward, where she was the manager. Those two were a riot. Nez survived many hardships in life. She had that pioneer spirit; work hard, laugh a lot, love family and have faith in God. It is said that she would have you in the pea patch or picking mustard greens before sunup but not until she had fed you a pan of homemade biscuits, bacon and eggs. Nez often worked two jobs to make ends meet but always had enough to share with those in need. When she retired, she moved to her hometown of Lecompte, LA. to care for her mother. She started working with the Counsel for the Aging and was awarded by the governor for her excellent work. She would deliver meals throughout the country-side to senior citizens. Once she ran into a ditch, got a ride home, got another car and finished her route. I asked her what she was doing when she turned the car over, she was 81 at the time. She answered, "Delivering food to the old folks." Nez had a strong belief in people looking after one another. If someone was sick or needed help, Nez was the first to offer a helping hand. People around Bridge City who came up in the 60's and 70's remember her great cooking, her nieces, the Young girls, and her beautiful granddaughter Theresa Hearn, who happened to be home from Nashville when her grandmother passed away Sunday. Inez had a great family. Her children Janice Overman, a real sweetheart, Ray and Harold, and their families and sister Joy are a treat to know. We've lost a wonderful lady who spread joy and love. Service were held Jan. 14, at Claybar Funeral Home in Bridge City.

That was 10 years ago. Dow Anderson reminded me that she was like a mother to him and other youngsters his age in the area. Judge Carl Thibodeaux will be honored Thursday evening, starting at 5:30p.m., at the Expo Center. Under Thibodeaux's 20 year leadership the county made great strides. Several new buildings have been built. He was a good leader. Congratulations to Dr. Mark Messer, named "Citizen of the Year" by the Bridge City Chamber and also to Bill Nickum Insurance named "Business of the Year." Those two men are great citizens who have, over the last 50 years, contributed much to the betterment of Bridge City. On the national front, the GOP presidential field of hopefuls is headed to a full field. Some new, others previous also-rans. John Ellis Bush (Jeb) is running fast to get ahead of the pack. With former V.P. candidate Paul Ryan bowing out, it's a sure sign his former running mate Willard M. Romney (Mitt) is marching towards a third try. He will have plenty of company there. Cruz, Paul, Huckabee, Perry and a dozen more are already calling Jeb a liberal.

### 22 Years Ago-2003

New York Giant kicker Matt Bryant is back in Orange County. Bryant has returned to help out his former coworkers at K&C Pawn in Orange where he is displaying commemorative footballs he earned during the 2002 season. Home invasion turns deadly for Orange County couple. Joan Ortiz Leleaux, 65, was found dead in a shed. Her husband Emerson Leleaux was found in the house still alive and was transported to St. Elizabeth Hospital. Sheriff's Dept. Deputy Chief John Tarver said Mrs. Leleaux was apparently dragged from the garage to the shed. Walter Wade Rice, Jr., age 30, was arrested and was being held in Dequincy awaiting Orange County authorities. Steve Worster, former Bridge City and UT great, has been selected for induction into the Cotton Bowl Hall of Fame. Worster, number 30, led the Longhorns from 1968 through 1970. Worster was the star of the famous Texas win over Notre Dame in the 1970 Cotton Bowl. Coach Ronnie Anderson was inducted into the Texas High School coaches Baseball Hall of Fame. Former Bridge City coach Glenn Bufaloe, 80, passed away Jan. 9, in Palacios. He died from Alzheimer's. Ironically his friend and fellow coach Joe Van Breeman died last month from the same thing. Two Orange boxers will be competing in the regional Silver Glove championship in Little Rock. Derrick Buford and Cody Richard are both Texas state champions. Silver Glove is for boys under the age of 15. Eric B. Ridley completes Marine boot camp. He is the son of Laura Ridley and grandson of Hal and Laverne Ridley. (Editor's note: Hal and Laverne have since passed away.)

### 77 Years Ago-1948

On Jan. 2, 1948, Chester Holts, 38-year-old, was named sheriff of Orange County. He was appointed to fill the unexpired term of the late sheriff Dick Stanfield. Holts had been a deputy for 18 months. He and his wife Iva have a 19-year-old son, Morgan, a 14-year-old daughter, Nova Dee and a 16-month-old baby girl, Wanda. Holts will be a candidate for the post. (Editor's note: He was elected and went on to serve for 21 years, the longest tenure by an Orange County sheriff. He and his family made their home in the jail. Chester, Iva, Morgan and Nova Dee are all deceased. District clerk is Tom M. Dodd, district judge is F.W. "Dub" Hustmyre, county attorney is Graham "Bubba" Bruce. Ward Stephenson forms law firm with his father K.W. The firm, Stephenson and Stephenson, is located in the Bancroft Building. Ward was recently admitted to the bar. He was a commander in the U.S. Navy. (Editor's note: I just love the historical stuff. It's hard for me to believe I wrote it and lived it all those years ago.)

### 67 Years Ago-1958

Louis Dugas Jr. seeks a third term as state representative. He was first elected in 1954. Dugas served as assistant to Sen. Jep Fuller while attending the University of Texas. A political fight is brewing in the county judge's race. Judge Sid Cailavet, Charlie Grooms and former County Clerk and Orange Mayor Joe Rannels, Jr. Tommy Gunn, 10 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald A. Gunn, outdid dad and granddad on deer hunt. He bagged a seven-pointer. Nothing for them.

### A FEW HAPPENINGS

Looks like people stayed inside by their fireplaces this past weekend to stay out of the cold and to rest up from the holidays. Or maybe they were mourning the Longhorns loss in the Cotton Bowl. They may need to go back into hibernation by this coming Sunday as another hard freeze is in the forecast for Sunday night. But get rested. Mardi Gras season with parades and balls is gearing up and then come all the spring activities. The Greater Orange Area Chamber of Commerce honored Tad McKee as Citizen of the Year in the annual banquet held at the OC Expo Center. Jessica Hill handed off her gavel to Stacy Brister, who is becoming the chairman of the board for the chamber. The new executive board members are Zach Johnson, Wendy Elmore, Meggan Layne, Shaun McAlpin, Wade Smith, and Ashla Taylor, who was named Ambassador of the Year. The Bridge City Chamber is getting ready for its annual banquet set for Monday, January 27, at the Bridge City Community Center. Individual tickets are \$35 and some are still available. Mardi Gras, or Fat Tuesday, is March 4 this year. Orange will have its Krewe Mardi Gras Ball on February 8 and the local parade will be on Saturday, February 22. The Orange parade is known for its floats throwing out lots of beads and other trinkets. What most of you may not know: Our friend Sharon Bearden had to return to the hospital where doctors had to redo his hip surgery. That was over a week ago. For the next several weeks an antibiotic will be injected directly into his hip area. He is tired of it and is trying to devise a way that he

can work from his hospital bed. Late news: Bearden just called and he is being transferred back to The Meadows for rehab Wednesday morning. A couple of weeks ago I heard some citizens wanted David Bailey to run for the Orange city council seat that he previously held. Some say "David is a good watch dog on the council." By the way, I don't believe Mayor Larry Spears is eligible to run again for the mayoral office. Can Trump rename the Gulf of Mexico? It remains unclear. It would be a complex process which other countries wouldn't have to go along with. Meanwhile, Gov. Greg Abbott is suggesting, "The Gulf of Texas." Sunday was a cold, rainy day when I sat down to write. I had a small breakfast and late in the afternoon I thought maybe a pork chop sandwich would be good. That was when God guided two good Samaritans to our door. Braving the rain and cold Charlotte and Dow Anderson walked in with some of her famous soup, even including greens and topped with sliced avocados, her famous cornbread, two large, cooked sweet potatoes, fried chicken drumsticks and fresh, filleted catfish for later. I enjoyed Dow's stories of being a young alligator hunter. He had an exclusive right to hunt on a large ranch and sold cured alligator hides. Some hides were sent to Fort Worth bootmakers to make famous Texas boots. Dow Gene still owns a pair. He and Charlotte killed enough alligators to pay off their home. That couple has a great life-story. Meanwhile, I'm waiting for the Jenkins boys to light up the fire and make their "Top Hog" sausage. Judge Chad is waiting for ice on the ground. That may never come. Happy 50th anniversary last Sunday, Jan. 11, to Penny and Gerald LeLeux. A perfect example of how opposites attract. I was glad to hear from Constable and Orangefield school board member Brad Frye. It's always good to hear from your friends. It's the only way to know if you still have any.

### BREAUX BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

A few folks celebrating birthdays in the next few days. Jan. 13: Bill Pryor, Paige Prejean, Don Thompson, LaDonna Bell, Brennan Broussard, Carlon Peet, Joy Hughes, Tyler Reves, Dee Culpepper. Jan. 16: Kaitlyn Potter, Jon Mott, Gary Dearing, Clayton Gearhart, Joel Meyers, Jerry Ashby, John Green III, Matthew Lee. Jan. 17: John Cash 'Jack' Smith, Loretta Stevens, Jeff Overman, Gail Meadows, Tanner Wilson. Jan. 18: Bonny Sarver, Dylan Hucklebay, Misti Jagoe, Tara Thompson, James Crabtree. Jan. 19: Judge Hershel Stagner, Candace Clark, John Michael Foote, Michael Amsden. (Remembering Ray Trahan, who died on this day 22 years ago in 2003. Today is also MLK Day.) Jan. 20: Brenna Manasco, Melissa Berry, Beth Fisher, Gloria Bertrand, Coach Steve Griffith, Beverly Delahoussaye. Jan. 21: Sarah Bonds, Millagro Foster, David Doucet. Let's give some birthday greetings also to Lyndia Permenter, Wendy Falgout Durham, Judy Mingle, Judge Rodney Townsend, Robert Vail, Elaine Reeh, Belinda Barron, Trystin Chapman, Alicia Young, Michael Moses, John Brown, Michael Eiden, Dyan Eatman Morris, Cindy Foreman, Greg Gravett, Skylar Mitchell, Kason Riggs, Susan Dorman, Donna Ratcliff Williams, Jim Brown, and Jamie Alexander. Special anniversary congratulations to Michael and Kitty Mazzola. They had their 53rd. Also celebrating were Chris and Cindy Gunn.

### CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Aldid Breaux is on his death bed him, and knows da end is near. His nurse Agness, wife Telma, daughter Joyce and two sons Boor Boor and Louis are wit him. Breaux axe for two witnesses and a camcorder so he can record his last wishes.

Wen ready Breaux begins to speak. "Boor Boor, I want you to take the Vermillion houses, my daughter Joyce, you take da apartments on Landry Street, Louis, me I want you to take the offices in da Gorchaux building, Telma, my dear wife, please take all da residential buildings on da banks of Bayou Tech."

Nurse Agness and da witnesses were shocked, dey didn't realize his extensive holdings. As Breaux slipped away, nurse Agness says, "Miss Telma, you husband must of been such a hard working man to have accumulated all dat property."

Telma replied, her, "Property? Da ass him had a newspaper route."

### C'EST TOUT SPECIAL COUNSEL REPORT RELEASED

The Justice Department released early Tuesday the first part of special counsel Jack Smith's report on his investigation into President-elect Donald Trump's alleged efforts to overturn the 2020 election. The report details Trump's alleged "criminal efforts to retain power," including his "pressure on state officials," his "fraudulent electors plan" and his "pressure on the Vice President." It also said there was enough evidence to convict Trump. Smith who resigned last week, concluded in a letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland that, in preparing the report, his team "stood up for the rule of law" and didn't seek to influence the election. Trump, who had failed to block the report's release, said he was "totally innocent" and called Smith "a lamebrain prosecutor who was unable to get his case tried before the Election. For that Trump should give thanks. No prison time and 34 other guilty charges sitting in the wings. The next four years won't be a cake-walk for the poor and middle class. Our world will take a big step backwards starting January 21, 2025. L.A. wildfires: At least 24 people have died and over two dozen are missing as wildfires continue to ravage Los Angeles. The city is under the most severe red flag warning, as fierce winds are predicted to threaten firefighters' progress. Gotta go. Thanks for your time. Please read us cover to cover, support our family of advertisers when you can. Also catch up-to-the-minute news on our website, therecordlive.com. Take care and God bless.

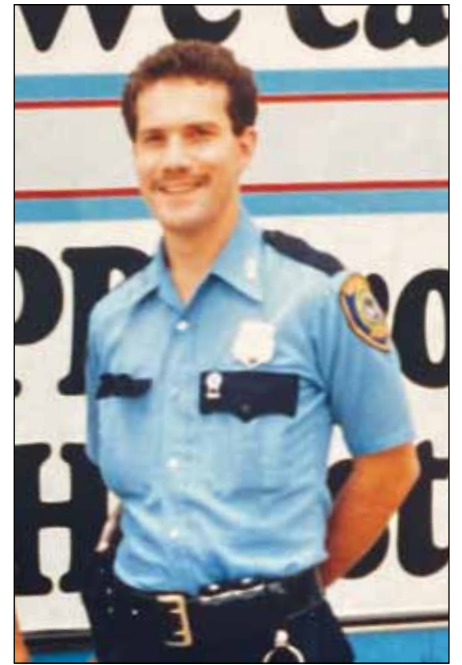
# Dr. Tom Johnson no ordinary guy



LSCO President Dr. Tom Johnson has decided to retire in August.



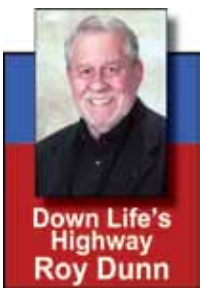
In 1982, while in college, he pursued his interest in government and got a job with U.S. Representative Charles Wilson, a now legendary congressman who represented Orange County for many years.



Tom Johnson served 20 years in one of the toughest police departments in the country, shown here in 1986 in Houston, Texas.

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

When I first met Dr. Tom Johnson, the new president of Lamar State College-Orange, who replaced Dr. Mike Shahan, who served 24 years as LSCO president. I liked Mike, he and I were bonded by an old Port Arthur connection but here was this new guy, Johnson, I had no idea where he hailed from but I knew that he was going to be alright.



I could tell right away, and I told him so, that anyone who wore a bow tie with cowboy boots had to be alright and would do to ride the range with. I recalled in my earlier days that Sen. Dudley J. LeBlanc, the Hadacol medicine man who became a millionaire, along with the Abbeville sheriff Irby Hebert, wore bowties but no boots. I recall my father Clay laughing about a sheriff with a bowtie and no gun. All that came back to me when I met Dr. Tom. I learned he wasn't a power puff. This guy would have to be hardened by 20 years of service in one of the toughest police departments in the country, in Houston, Texas.

On the other hand he had to have a politicians' quality after serving in Washington with our congressman Charlie Wilson. Looking him in the eyes I asked, "Where are you from?" Doc responded, "In Port Arthur, on 39th St. and raised on Nick's and MawMaw Judice's boudin. That's all I needed to join us at the hip. The town that produced Coach Jimmy Johnson also gave birth to this guy, who is no dummy. Different than CPA John Dubose and me, he is

hanging it up at age 63.

Here is his education background. He earned five college degrees, including two associate degrees, a bachelor of science in Criminology and Corrections and a master of science in Criminal Justice. Management from Sam Houston State University, and a doctorate in Higher Education Administration from Texas Southern University.

Johnson was confirmed as president of LSCO in August, 2018, by the Board of Regents of the Texas State University System. He stated at the time, "Lamar State College Orange will be a place where hope meets opportunity and together we will transform lives. The majority of our students are first generation (like me) who just want a better life for themselves and their families. LSCO provides the educational pathway for that dream to become a reality." "LSCO is an oasis for those who seek a trade, craft skills or take advantage of local low-cost, high quality academic courses that can transfer to a university. We are an

open-door institution of higher education that focuses on our students and, my friends, we do it well." Under Johnson's tenure as president, LSCO has grown with increasing enrollment and graduates. Since 2019, LSCO has introduced 17 new programs of study including electromechanical technology, building construction tech-

nology, court reporting and massage therapy, among others. He completed 10 years of golds in six years.

The move is bittersweet for Johnson, who says LSCO has been the greatest honor of his life. He and his wife, Karen, will treasure the friendships made in the Orange community. The president said he looks forward to traveling and spending more time with family and wife, since they are both relatively young and in good health.

Going back to the college's first president Dr. Joe Ben Welch, when it was affectionately called "Tilly Tech," the school has been blessed with good leaders. However, Dr. Tom has cut quite a path for others to follow. We await the next LSCO president who has some big shoes to fill.

On a personal note, even though Tom is younger than any of my children and I'm old enough to be his grandfather, I would be a proud one.

He will be around for another seven months so during that time I hope to turn 91. If I don't, I wish Tom and Karen a long, happy, healthy life filled with the joy they have earned.

## Deaths & Memorials

### Doris Mildred Wood, 92, BC

Doris Mildred Wood, 92, of Bridge City, Texas, passed away peacefully on Jan. 6, 2025, in Orange. A gathering of family and friends was held from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., Friday, Jan. 10 at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Doris was born in Brooklyn, New York, on May 26, 1932. She was the daughter of George M. Cook and Ann K. Cook (Halpin). Affectionately known as Nana and Aunt Doris, she was a beloved figure in her family and community. Doris was a dedicated professional, having served as a Southwestern Bell telephone operator, worked in administration at Chevron for 26 years, and later as a casino card dealer. Her diverse career reflected her adaptable spirit and strong work ethic.

An enthusiastic lover of aerobics, Doris found joy in staying active, often inspiring those around her to lead healthy lifestyles. She had a particular fondness for Luby's Cafeteria, where she enjoyed sharing meals with her loved ones. Above all, Doris cherished her family, dedicating her



Doris Mildred Wood

life to nurturing and supporting them.

Doris was known for her uplifting mantra, "Go get you a good day!" which encapsulated her positive outlook on life. Doris is now in the arms of her beloved savior. She leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and resilience that will be remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing her.

She is preceded in death by her parents, George and Ann K. Cook; sons, Walter Wood and Bobby Wood; grandson, Brian Wood; and brothers, Yankee Mortimer and Butch Mortimer.

She is survived by her grandchildren, Brad Wood, Kristi Landry and husband Jude, and Steven Wood and wife Casey; great-grandchildren, Jordyn, Kyndall, Josie, Skylar, Vivian, Ethan, Jameson, and Stella; great-great-grandchild, Francesca; sister, Joan Gunn; as well as other loving family and friends.

Cremation will be held under the direction of Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

### Possible TikTok ban just days away

Associated Press--

With a possible TikTok ban just days away, many U.S. users are looking for alternative social media platforms to help them keep up with pop culture or provide the type of entertaining videos that popularized the short-form video app.

TikTok, which has been a

cultural phenomenon, could be banned on Jan. 19 under a law that forces the platform to cut ties with its China-based parent company, ByteDance, or shut down its U.S. operation.

The fate of social media platform will be decided by the Supreme Court, which last week heard oral arguments in a legal challenge

to the statute and seemed likely to uphold the law. The court could rule on the case as soon as this week. Meanwhile, President-elect Donald Trump has asked the justices to put the law on hold so he can negotiate a "political resolution" to the issue after he takes office.

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# The Firm Love of a Faithful Sister

Jani Ortlund  
desiringGod.org

*Exhort one another . . . that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.*  
(Hebrews 3:13)

I longed to appear brave, mature, and full of faith in front of my revered mother-in-law, Anne Ortlund. But I couldn't control the tears any longer. Her godly son, Ray, who happened to be my magnificent husband, was at yet another meeting with church leaders who were making it clear that he would soon be removed from his ministry as lead pastor at a church we dearly loved. For various reasons (from "we can't explain why, but we just think this is for the best" to "his face is too Nordic-looking"), they were not only planning to let Ray go, but were also hinting that he should leave gospel ministry entirely.

We felt as if we had been run over by a big bus and were left lying on the pavement while life went on for everyone else. This trial was vastly different from any of the difficulties we had dealt with in our 36 years of ministry to that point. We were confused and scared. Mom Ortlund already knew some of the story. And on this visit with us from her home in California, she tried to listen to me patiently.

As she listened, however, she saw something in me that I had overlooked. And



with the firm love of a faithful woman, she responded in a way I never expected — but so desperately needed.

### 'Jani, Stop It'

Between sobs, I poured out my soul-crushing fears: "O Mom, I'm so afraid. What if they hammer Ray with more vague allegations? What if they keep insinuating that he should leave the ministry? You know how he has always lived in submission to his elders, but this is crazy. And I'm terrified. I never dreamed we'd be in this awful situation at age 58. Ray is even waking up with nightmares. I don't know how to love him through this, how to be his helper. I'm just so scared." I started sobbing even more uncontrollably. Then, as I started my next sentence, "What if . . ." Mom inter-

rupted me.

I'll never forget what she said. She was calm, but she was firm: "Jani, stop it." She didn't raise her voice. She didn't sigh in exasperation. And when her startled daughter-in-law caught her breath and looked up from her tissue-covered eyes, Mom just earnestly repeated herself. "Stop it, dear Jani."

As you can imagine, Mom's comment shocked me. I caught my breath. I was barely able to blurt out, "What do you mean?" I had been hoping for affirmation, sympathy, and even a bit of righteous anger. But what I received was a strong, brief exhortation from a saintly woman I deeply trusted. Mom went on to tell me that no one would be helped by my all-consuming panic. There were no answers to my "What if . . ." questions. And the best way I could

help my dear Ray was to stop wallowing in my fears.

"Did you know, Jani, that 'fear not' is the most repeated command in the Bible? We are told over 365 times to 'fear not.' That's at least one 'fear not' for every day of the year." Maybe everyone else knows that about the Bible, but I didn't. It was a new thought, and I needed it.

### Escaping the Snare

Notice what my mother-in-law was wisely doing. She didn't join my fear-fest, but stayed deeply rooted in her Lord and his word — and she helped me get there too. She lovingly exhorted me, "with complete patience and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:2), to stop letting my fears be my king, reigning over my broken heart and confused mind. She challenged me to ask myself why I was bowing to my fears and allowing them to rule me at that moment.

Mom's faithful and firm exhortation helped free me from the strong trap of fear. How did it help me? Mom understood in that moment that I needed more than sympathy. Fear's deceitful entanglement was holding me captive, and I needed someone not merely to commiserate with me, but to help me escape fear's grip.

Mom faced an emotionally hard choice as I stood there crying. She could either coddle my fears or confront them. If she had

coddled my fears out of fear of my disapproval, she would have become ensnared by "the fear of man." Coddling me might have initially felt kind, but ultimately it would have proven cruel because her "kindness" would have left me trapped by fear. Instead, Mom chose the difficult path of confrontation.

### Why Don't We Exhort?

Why did my mother-in-law's exhortation surprise me so much? Doesn't God's word tell us to "exhort one another every day, as long as it is called 'today,' that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin" (Hebrews 3:13)?

Yes, it does. But I suspect that for many of us, true exhortation happens far less frequently than "every day."

Maybe we fear becoming like Job's counselors, who exhorted their suffering friend without wisdom or kindness. Maybe we want to obey James's counsel to be "quick to hear" (James 1:19) — and Paul's command to "comfort one another" (2 Corinthians 13:11). Maybe we have rarely seen exhortation done well.

These concerns are all understandable. We should listen patiently, speak slowly, and be eager to comfort. We should beware of bludgeoning others with poorly applied counsel. But if these biblical priorities nudge out the clear biblical command to also "exhort one another," then something has gone wrong in our hearts and relationships.

I wonder if, for myself and many others, fear itself is the main hindrance to more biblical exhortation. But sisters, sin is a snare, a trap, a deep pit — and godly exhortation is one of the ways we protect each other from becoming (or staying) trapped. If we're going to grow in Christ, we need not only kind sympathy but firm love.

### Blessed Exhortation

My mother-in-law proved to be a faithful sister to me that night, leading me to our wise King. While she cared deeply for her suffering son, she knew that succumbing to fear would only make the situation worse. As believers, we do not fight fear by trying to drum up enough courage. We fight fear by faith — faith in the God who invites us to bring our fears to him and let his peace, which passes all understanding, guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:6-7).

I'm deeply grateful for my mother-in-law's wise and loving exhortation that night. It was a turning point in my life. What if she had feared speaking into my fears? I would not have been able to clothe myself with "strength and dignity" (Proverbs 31:25) as Ray and I walked through those dark days together — and far beyond. I would not have been a good helper for my beloved husband. And I would not have experienced the peace and strength that come from turning to Christ.

I'm so glad she pointed me to him. What a blessed exhortation!



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# Houston Texans again playoff underdog before trip to Kansas City

**Staff Report For The Record**

C.J. Stroud and the Houston Texans cruised past the Los Angeles Chargers on wild card weekend. Oddsmakers expect Houston's playoff run to end Saturday in Kansas City.

The Texans are slated as 7.5-to-8.5 underdogs across various sports books ahead of Saturday's divisional round matchup at Arrowhead Stadium, a sensible point spread given both the extended past and more recent history of both teams.

The Chiefs are the two-time reigning champions, a historic dynasty entering the postseason after a 15-2 mark in the regular season. The Texans dispatched the Los Angeles Chargers with ease to open the playoffs, but they previously dropped December contests at the Chiefs and at home against the Baltimore Ravens.

Stroud is an impressive young quarterback. He's nowhere close to Patrick Mahomes' standing as a future Hall of Fame signal caller. Pull off the upset Saturday, and Houston will secure what is likely the most celebrated win in franchise history. Check the slate of divisional round point spreads (via DraftKings) below.

- Kansas City Chiefs -8 vs. Houston Texans

- Detroit Lions -9 vs. Washington Commanders

- Philadelphia Eagles -6 vs. Los Angeles Rams

- Buffalo Bills -1 vs. Baltimore Ravens

Buffalo vs. Baltimore could be a playoff classic between the NFL's two leading MVP candidates. The Vikings finished 14-3 in an often-dominant regular season. Both Stroud and Washington quarter-



**C.J. Stroud and the offense will need to step their game up a notch. They played well against Los Angeles, but they can't afford to start nearly as slow as they did in the Wild Card. Houston will need to put up points in order to hang with Mahomes.**

back Jayden Daniels then sit in similar situations. The Chiefs and Lions rolled through the regular season as NFL juggernauts, and both enter the playoffs with considerable home field advantage. Stroud became a house-

hold name with his late-game heroics last season. Daniels did the same in Washington this year. They'll now share the national spotlight Saturday in a pair of chances to shock the football world. Houston will play in the

weekend's opening game once again in the divisional round. Saturday's contest from Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City is slated for 3:30 p.m. CT, with the game broadcast on ABC and ESPN. Earlier this season,

Houston ended up falling short against the Chiefs by a final score of 27-19. However, if they play like they did against the Chargers, the Texans could make a very entertaining game out of the divisional round showdown.

In order to pull off the win, Houston is going to need to play a nearly perfect game and will need a lot of players to step up.

ESPN has now revealed their projection for this weekend's playoff game. Unfortunately, the Texans did not receive a very favorable prediction.

They are giving Kansas City a 62.4% chance to come out on top, while Houston has just a 37.6% chance to do the same.

Houston is used to the underdog role already. They were in the same boat last week.

This kind of thing just gives them extra motivation to come out and prove what they're capable of doing.

# McCarthy out as Dallas Cowboys coach



McCarthy now will be free to interview with other teams after the Cowboys denied the Chicago Bears' request last week to speak with the coach about their vacancy.

McCarthy ended his Cowboys tenure with a 49-35 record and three postseason appearances in five seasons, including a 7-10 mark in his final year.

**Reported by NFL Network**

After months of speculation, Mike McCarthy won't return to the Dallas Cowboys.

With McCarthy's contract set to expire Tuesday, the coach and the team will part ways rather than work to pursue an extension, a person with knowledge of the move told USA TODAY Sports' Jarrett Bell. The person spoke on condition of anonymity

because neither side had yet disclosed the resolution. NFL Network's Tom Pelissero was first to report the news.

McCarthy now will be free to interview with other teams after the Cowboys denied the Chicago Bears' request last week to speak with the coach about their vacancy.

McCarthy ended his Cowboys tenure with a 49-35 record and three postseason appearances in five seasons, including a 7-10

mark in his final year.

Amid speculation that he could pursue a job with another franchise given his expiring contract, McCarthy said after the Week 18 loss to the Washington Commanders that he preferred to remain with Dallas.

"Absolutely. I have a lot invested here, and the

Cowboys have a lot invested in me," McCarthy said. "And then there's a personal side to all these decisions. They all point the right direction. I think anytime you invest your time, energy, your belief, the connection you have, the relationships that are in place here, the understanding of what the orga-

nization can do and is willing to do. Those are all positive attributes that you take into account."

McCarthy's standing had been under scrutiny for nearly a year, as Jerry Jones opted to bring the coach back for the final season of his contract despite a blowout wild-card loss last January to the

Green Bay Packers. But he offered no extension and declared that the franchise would be "all in" for 2024 after three consecutive 12-win seasons failed to result in the team breaking what was then a 28-year drought of reaching the NFC champion-

MCCARTHY Page 3B

# TPWD give tips to reduce transmission of bird flu

**Staff Report For The Record**

AUSTIN, Texas— The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department released information about what the public can do to assist in interrupting the spread of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza, also known as bird flu.

According to officials with TPWD, the National Veterinary Services Laboratories confirmed the presence of bird flu in multiple locations throughout the state, and disease experts indicate that bird flu is circulating among wild birds in Texas

as waterbirds and waterfowl are on their wintering grounds. Officials noted that the most recent detections have been found in Wharton, Galveston, and Harris counties.

'Bird flu symptoms': Online searches spike after first severe case in US

While no recent detections have been in the Texas Panhandle region, as reported by MyHighPlains.com, there have been cases from previous months within the area.

TPWD officials stated that bird flu, which is a highly contagious virus

BIRD FLU Page 3B

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**OUTDOORS**

# Low Water Lessons

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



**Chuck Uzzle**

As I sit here in front of this computer I can't help but be cautiously optimistic about the prospects for the new year on Sabine and Calcasieu. In the years since the upper Texas coast and western half of Louisiana got absolutely hammered by hurricanes the landscape has changed as far as the eye can see.

Many traditional fall and winter "hotspots" have either been covered in mud or littered with debris making fishing that spot a much more difficult task. In years past we have always made a great living chasing birds during the year and that hasn't changed. For many middle and lower coast anglers the thought of chasing school trout under the birds is about as attractive as a trip to the dentist. At one time the big difference between our schools of trout and those farther south was the size and quality of the fish found in those schools. On one occasion at Calcasieu I had two clients catch 7 pound trout back to back under the birds while I took a pair of 6 pounders in between the pictures.

Big trout like that rarely show up under the birds at other venues so it's understandable when you hear other anglers say "let the tourists have those, we are after better fish" as they motor right past wheeling and screeching gulls chasing shrimp on the surface. I certainly miss those days and hope at some point they return.

Yes its true things are somewhat different in this part of the world but there are also plenty of things we have in common with the rest of the coast, low winter water is one that comes to mind right off hand. How many times have you shown up to the ramp and almost all the water is gone, happens several times every fall and winter. On Sabine we are fortunate enough to have some really nice launches that afford you the opportunity to launch in almost any condition, especially low water.

One of the ramps is up on the Sabine River at the downtown pavilion and is an exceptional area to both launch and fish. During the extreme low water periods both trout and redfish will congregate on the big points in the river and will really smoke a crank bait or soft plastic. Live bait fishermen just wear them out on shad fished Carolina style. It's often funny to watch the boats that don't normally launch in this area blow right by some of the best fishing in the whole complex. Birds on the brain will give you tunnel vision and nothing else matters.

Okay let's look at this scenario from the stand point of you got your boat launched and are now trying to figure out what to do with all the water being gone. Several different patterns come to mind but one of them requires no fishing rod or bait. Gathering information during low water periods can be invaluable and there are very few times when you can learn as much about a body of water.

I once fished with a good friend on Toledo Bend and he had an entire photo album dedicated to the areas he fished and where his camp was located. All of the photos were taken when the lake was at an all time low and the amount of structure he had uncovered and saved in the photos was mind boggling. All it took was a little effort, a camera, and some determination and he had easily the best information one could ever hope to have about the area. When the water came up and covered all the

**CAPTAIN CHUCK Page 4B**

## Gulf Coast Fishing Reports- Winter Patterns

Compiled by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

• **Sabine Lake**

**GOOD.** 55 degrees. Limits of drum, redfish and sheepshead can be caught during the outgoing tides in the cuts, points and drops in the mouth of bayous leading from Bessie Heights. Shallow bite is on live shrimp under a popping cork in 2-4 feet of water, then use Carolina rigged live shrimp in 8-15 feet of water. Neches River shell flats and bulkheads are producing sheepshead and some drum.

Redfish can be caught on the buoys and points. North levy on Pleasure Island is producing nice speckled trout on live shrimp on popping corks or Carolina rigged. Soft plastics, topwater and swimbaits are good early morning until the sun rises. Freshwater entering Sabine Lake on the north end pushed trout along the southern shorelines in 8 feet of water on reefs. Slot fish can be caught dragging a red shad or watermelon/chartreuse 3-5 inch plastics with a 1/4 ounce jig head. Fish will move deeper after the cold front. Continue to focus efforts on the south side or in the Neches River for the best bites.

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

• **Bolivar**

**GOOD.** 55 degrees. It's going to be on fire or miserable and chilly fishing as the weather changes back and forth. Four tide days early in the week turn to high tides in the afternoon and evening as the week progresses with the moon getting full during the weekend when the temperatures climb back into the sunny 60s! Water temperature is staying in the lower 60s. Water levels changing back-and-forth with the north winds pushing the tide out and coming back clear on the incoming tide like the beginning of the month. Anglers are still catching plenty of redfish everywhere!

A few nice speckled trout are still being caught along with a few more sand trout, black drum, redfish, occasional sheepshead, and crabs caught along the jetty. The flounder are still there but mixed sizes from small 6-8 inch potato chips to 25-26 inch doormats. The surf is producing lots of reds and black drum, occasional speckled trout and a few sharks along the whole peninsula with more activity towards Gilchrist

High Island mainly. People are using all kinds of different things for bait this past week with varying results either limiting out or not catching much. Check your weather app for barometer changes. Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

• **Trinity Bay**

**SLOW.** 64 degrees. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing. The recent water release from the Trinity River ran a lot of redfish south and with the recent front, the target area will be the reds in the main bay and main bay shorelines. More rain on the way with estimated 2-3 inches, so the south pattern will most likely stick for a bit. Recent northwest winds most

likely dumped the remaining shrimp in the bay and mixed with the fresh water, they most likely headed south as well. Trout were just getting right on the drains prior to last Sunday with the lochs opening up.

The spillway and north shoreline should be where it's at this week and up to Baytown. Trout are hitting WAC Attacks Shad XL in the peppered pumpkin color and gulp baits rigged with 1/4 ounce jig heads and also using 3/8 ounce in the current. Redfish are hammering gulp in the rocks with current in about 1-2 feet of water if you can find an area like this. It seems the last few weeks the redfish are going as far north as they can in an area that is always

protected from wind and with bait and with good current. Drum and sheepshead are on about any rock shoreline using live and dead bait under a popping cork. Always wear your kill switch and God is great! Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• **East Galveston Bay**

**GOOD.** 52 degrees. Raw very cold and windy week here on the bay. Truth is, there isn't much to report until we get past this winter type weather. For those that are willing to brave the conditions, your best bet is to fish the most protected areas of the bay. Galveston Bay in Moses Lake, Clear Lake, Scott Bay, Black Duck Bay, and Burnet Bay for trout, reds, black drum, and sheepshead. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

produced flounder, sand trout and the occasional drum and sheepshead. Report by Captain Shane Rilat, North Jetty Bait Camp.

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## 'The Lakes' Fishing

• **Toledo Bend Fishing Report**

**FAIR.** Water normal stain; 58 degrees; 2.49 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; 0.32 feet below pool. 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.



# Mexican cattle banned from Texas due to screwworm fly threat

Pooja Salhotra  
The Texas Ytibile

A single cow in Mexico and a pest the size of a housefly have held up pens full of Texas-bound cattle worth millions of dollars for the past six weeks.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture has banned Mexican cattle imports since November after a parasite known as screwworm, which wriggles into the flesh of livestock and kills them if left untreated, was discovered on a cow near Mexico's border with Guatemala. The ban on imports is a bigger problem than the screwworm itself, according to Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller and some Texas cattle ranchers, who say closing cattle imports damages their livelihoods, bottlenecks beef production and could increase beef prices for consumers. "I get calls every single day from people asking for cattle," said Alvaro Bustillos, president of Vaquero Trading, a livestock procurement company in El Paso. "Key steps in the production value chain are being stopped because people cannot source cattle."

Miller remembers a time when screwworm wreaked havoc in Texas — \$132 million in damages in 1976 — but said the USDA prematurely closed



A single cow in Mexico and a pest the size of a housefly have held up pens full of Texas-bound cattle worth millions of dollars for the past six weeks.

imports and is hampering an industry still trying to recover from two years of widespread drought.

"There's no way we are going to get screwworm," Miller told The Texas Tribune. "We have a very strict import process for these cattle."

About 3% of U.S. cattle come from Mexico. But Mexican cattle play a disproportionate role in southern states' beef production. Approximately two-thirds of Mexican cattle imports remain in Texas, New Mexico or Oklahoma, according to an estimate from Ben Weinheimer, the president and CEO of the Texas Cattle Feeders Association, which represents the industry across those three states.

Cattle crossing between Mexico and the U.S. remains on hold while the USDA installs new in-

spection pens and enhanced safety protocols to ensure cattle are healthy. Keeping the U.S. free of screwworm saves livestock producers close to \$1 billion a year, said Texas Animal Health Commission spokesperson Erin Robinson, pointing to a USDA estimate that accounts for costs of labor, treatment, veterinary care, eradication efforts and loss of production.

Shutting off Mexican cattle imports has contributed to a recent increase in cow prices, said David P. Anderson, a professor of agricultural economics at Texas A&M University AgriLife Extension. Prices of feeder steers, which make up a large portion of Mexican cattle imports, are forecast to rise by 8% in 2025, a USDA report states. If import restrictions continue for much longer,



Since cattle imports were cut off in November, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Sid Miller and some ranchers worry about the ban's economic impact on beef producers and consumers.

beef production could drop, pushing up prices for consumers.

"Fewer cattle mean higher beef prices, increasing inflation at the checkout line," Miller wrote in a Dec. 23 editorial, adding that the ban "could send shockwaves through the beef market."

Screwworm infestations occur when a female fly lays her eggs on an animal's open wound or another area such as their eyes or mouth. The female can lay up to 300 eggs at a time, and any warm-blooded animal, including hu-

mans, although rare, can be affected. The eggs hatch into larvae that dig into the animal and feed on living flesh.

Screwworm was declared eradicated from the U.S. in 1966, but Texas experienced a more recent outbreak in 1976 that affected 20% of cattle.

## Farmers disrupted

When Bustillos found out the weekend before Thanksgiving that imports of Mexican cattle were to be halted because a single cow had screw-

worm, he was upset.

"Based on what is happening 3,000 kilometers down south, they are shutting us down," Bustillos said. "I don't think it's fair."

Bustillos has a stake in both exporting and importing cattle. He's board chairman and president of the Chihuahua Cattleman's Association, which represents Mexican cattle producers. He also leads Vaquero Trading, which imports more than 200,000 Mexican cattle a

SCREWWORM Page 5B

## Bird flu in Texas From Page 1B

that transmits easily among wild and domestic birds, can spread easily between animals indirectly through environmental contamination. TPWD recommends that wildlife rehabilitators remain cautious when taking wild animals with clinical signs consistent with bird flu and consider quarantining

animals to limit exposure to other animals within the facility.

TPWD noted that the public can assist in limiting the transmission of bird flu by limiting all unnecessary contact with wild birds along with cleaning bird feeders and water sources at least every two weeks with a solu-

tion of one part bleach to nine parts water. TPWD also recommends changing water in birdbaths every few days and regularly removing wet feed and seed from feed and water sources.

Bird flu virus was found in raw milk. What to know about the risks

TPWD stated that game bird hunters should consider precautions such as:

- Disposing of carcasses properly;
- Wearing gloves when processing;



- Avoiding consumption or processing of any sick bird;
- Cleaning and disinfecting tools between carcasses; and
- Cooking meat to proper temperatures.

Officials stated that the transmission risk of avian influenza from infected birds to people remains low. However, the public should take basic protective measures if contact

with wild animals cannot be avoided. The public and healthcare professionals can find more information about HPAI in humans from the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Those who have had contact with an HPAI-positive animal and develop signs of illness should immediately contact their healthcare provider and let them know about the exposure and those who encounter a wild animal with signs consistent with HPAI should contact their local TPWD wildlife biologist.

## McCarthy out From Page 1B

ship game.

Yet the Cowboys were dealt major blows early on, as the organization's 16-game home winning streak in the regular season gave way to five losses at AT&T Stadium to start the season. The 47-9 loss to the Detroit Lions in Week 6 was the greatest deficit in a home contest in Jones' tenure as owner.

Injuries also took a significant toll, with linebacker Micah Parsons, defensive end DeMarcus Lawrence and cornerbacks DaRon Bland and Trevon Diggs among those to miss significant stretches of

time. When quarterback Dak Prescott underwent season-ending surgery in early November for a partially torn hamstring, many expected the team would extend a skid that eventually dropped Dallas to 3-7.

But the Cowboys would go on to win four of their next five, stirring speculation that McCarthy could remain with the franchise.

Jones was largely complementary of McCarthy throughout the fall and winter, though he stopped short of ever making a commitment to him.



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# Weird weather isn't always because of climate change — but sometimes it is

Reported by NPR News

2025 started off with a flurry of intense weather. Southern California experienced bursts of 100-mph winds that spread record-breaking destructive wildfires. Major winter storms have dumped snow and cold weather on the Mid-Atlantic and the South. And in the midst of the weather news, scientists from major meteorological associations around the world reported that human-caused climate change drove 2024 to be the hottest year in human history.

In the past, climate scientists often said that individual weather events couldn't be connected to human-caused climate change. But in the last decade, sophisticated new science has allowed researchers to pinpoint the impact of climate change on weather disasters like heat waves, hurricanes, and even wildfires.

Not every weather fluctuation is demonstrably affected by climate change. But the impact of the steady increase in global temperature is now detectable in many extreme weather

events—and likely many of the more normal ones, too, says Justin Mankin, a climate scientist at Dartmouth College.

"The trends in climate are shaping new weather possibilities that were maybe unprecedented," Mankin says.

## What's the difference between climate and weather, anyway?

Scientists have a saying: climate is what you plan for and weather is what you get.

Climate scientist Danielle Touma of the University of Texas, Austin, explains it this way. "The climate is basically the clothes you have in your closet," but what you pick out to wear every day tells you about the weather. So in Colorado, where Touma used to live, her winter wardrobe was full of jackets and sweaters—ready for the winter climate. But sometimes there was a warm day when she would dig a T-shirt from the back of a drawer.

Scientists usually define the climate of a place as the

30-year average of its weather. So weird weather does factor in, but isn't as important to the average as more common conditions, says Deepti Singh, a climate scientist at Washington State University. And scientists expect the variation in day-to-day weather to persist, even as climate change evolves.

## Does human caused climate change affect weather?

Earth's temperature has risen about 1.3 degrees Celsius since the mid-1800s, when people started burning vast amounts of fossil fuels. The pollution from that burning traps heat inside Earth's atmosphere, slowly heating up the air, oceans, and land.

The temperatures' slow creep upward doesn't always noticeably affect daily weather, at least not in obvious ways, Singh says. But planet-scale warming is probably affecting weather basically every day, even if the impacts are subtle.

"Everything we're experiencing, it is occurring in a different environment,"



The polar vortex has triggered freeze warnings and advisories across Texas, threatening human safety and infrastructure.

## How do we know?

In the past decade, scientists have developed techniques called "detection" and "attribution." They use climate models that represent Earth's physics to simulate how the planet's climate and weather events would behave if humans had not burned vast quantities of fossil fuels. By comparing that hypothetical situation to the one that exists, they can see if human-caused climate change affected the likelihood of weather events happening—and in many cases, how big the influence was.

For example, they could see that Hurricane Helene's deadly rainfall was 10% more intense than it would have been absent human-caused climate change, and at least 40% more likely.

Mankin compares the technique to clinical trials in medicine. "You want to compare a distribution of medical outcomes in a population that received the drug, the treatment group, to a control group that didn't receive the drug," Mankin says. Only in this case, the drug is fossil fuel burning.

Singh says. So the weather itself, "to some extent, is being influenced by these changes."

There are fewer days below freezing in many parts of the U.S. and beyond: states like Michigan and Ohio experience more than a week fewer freezing days now than they would in a world without climate change. And heat extremes have also increased. The number of heat waves in the U.S. has more than tripled since the 1960s.

A changing climate also reshapes complicated atmosphere and ocean patterns—sometimes introducing new or extraordinary weather outside of

what people have experienced in the past. The deadly 2021 heat wave in the Pacific Northwest, for example, was demonstrably hotter because of climate change—but the atmospheric conditions that allowed it to occur in the first place were also essentially unprecedented in the region.

"We've kind of put the climate on steroids," says Alex Hall, a climate scientist at the University of California, Los Angeles. "But once in a while there'll be something really extreme that will occur that will be way outside the range of what the atmosphere was capable of before."

## Capt. Chuck From Page 2B

structure he could take those pictures and literally see below the surface. All that information made it easier for him to understand certain patterns for different times of the year as well as know exactly where to set up for species like crappie and catfish.

Saltwater anglers can take advantage of the same situation and become much more informed as well. Low water often uncovers ditches and guts that otherwise are left unchecked or

unfished. Shell pads and other forms of structure become more visible in low water conditions. One winter Capt. Lynn Waddell and I were wading Calcasieu and we had just set the anchor and climbed over the gunnels to make a wade on a pristine flat. In the distance we spotted another boat headed towards our location so we stopped to see just exactly where it was headed. As it closed the distance it was obvious that the boat was

coming straight for us when it began zig zagging across the flat. Immediately we were both thinking "what is this jerk doing"? As the boat destroyed the flat we were going to wade we realized it was an oyster boat and they were looking for beds. Well instead of wallowing in our misery we followed the guy and found some areas of oyster that we never knew were there. The low water allowed the oyster fishermen to see

farther down into the water and find places where they could set up and harvest. Under normal water levels this type of technique certainly wouldn't work so the oyster fishermen were definitely taking advantage of the situation.

Another reason to get out on low water days is the afternoon high tides, these tides wash over exposed areas that have been warming all day and once they get covered back up they become absolute fish magnets. The north end of Sabine Lake is famous for this situation as the flats

near the mouth of the rivers often lay bare in the sun until afternoon tides bring water levels back to normal. There have been just some outstanding catches of big trout on this pattern, especially as you get to January and February. Warm flats hold both heat and bait so they become very obvious places for better fish to hang out.

The same pattern holds true for the opposite condition, when the water is at normal level and starts to go out. The falling water on hard fronts will back fish off of the shallow flats

to the first break or deeper water.

I guess for me the point of this whole line of thinking is that regardless of the situation there is always a pattern to be learned or discovered and there is always new information to gather that will make you a much better fisherman. Always remember that there is somebody out there who has figured out the pattern and is having a career day on the water, that could be you if learn and understand the situation and make it work for you.

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# TPWD doubles size of Enchanted Rock State Natural Area

## Staff Report For The Record

AUSTIN-- The Texas Hill Country is about to get more “enchanted,” thanks to the recent purchase of a 3,073-acre property adjacent to Enchanted Rock State Natural Area in Llano County. This property will double the amount of publicly available land at one of Texas’ most popular state parks.

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) purchased the property for \$43 million. Funding from the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund will help accelerate development and eventual public use. The \$1 billion fund, which voters overwhelmingly approved in November 2023, dedicated a portion of state budget surplus to create a dedicated funding stream for acquiring and developing new state parks.

“Texas is home to 88 state parks that showcase our great state’s natural beauty

to Texans and visitors from all over the globe,” Gov. Greg Abbott said in a news release. “The expansion of Enchanted Rock State Natural Area will allow tourists from across the state and around the world to enjoy even more of the majesty of Texas. Together, we will continue to ensure that what makes Texas unique and beautiful is preserved for generations.”

The purchase of this property is the latest land acquisition made by the TPWD in recent months, expanding public access to Texas’ natural spaces in more corners of the state. This achievement joins the previous procurement of 630 acres for Enchanted Rock and the purchase of Lake Colorado City State Park.

“Enchanted Rock is cherished by Texans across the state, and we are thrilled to add a property of this size and scope to this beloved park,” said Jeff Hildebrand,



The purchase of the property will double the amount of publicly available land at one of Texas’ most popular state parks.

Chairman of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission. “I look forward to families experiencing this new addition to Enchanted Rock SNA and creating lasting memories for generations to come.”

When notified of available properties, TPWD

conducts a due diligence review to determine the property’s feasibility as a state park, natural area or historic site. In this case, TPWD engaged its official non-profit partner, Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation, to help secure this important piece of property.

“I would like to thank the Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation for their help and the voters of Texas who said yes to the Centennial Parks Conservation Fund as these funds will be instrumental in the development of this new property,” said Rodney Franklin, director

of Texas State Parks. “It is exciting that we can expand the recreational opportunities for this iconic Texas State Park.”

Previously, the property was mainly used privately for hunting but will now become an extension of Enchanted Rock, allowing for more recreation and conservation opportunities for the citizens of Texas. It features a rock formation that could provide a new scenic vantage point of the iconic pink granite dome the park is named for. The land will also help conserve the night sky and viewshed in a rapidly developing area of the state.

Now that the sale has been finalized, TPWD will develop a plan with input from the public to determine recreational opportunities for the property. This plan may take many months to complete, but TPWD will communicate upcoming milestones, including a potential opening date.

## Screwworm threat From Page 3B

year and supplies cows to feedlots in several states.

Bustillos says he has worked hard to build trust between the U.S. and Mexico, putting in place millions of dollars worth of sanitation practices that keep livestock safe and pest free on both sides of the border. Cattle entering the U.S. must have health certificates, vaccinations and testing to prevent diseases from entering the U.S, per requirements from the USDA’s Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

November and December are typically when the U.S. imports the largest number of cattle from Mexico. Most of those imports are small cows headed to ranches or feedlots, where they are fattened up before getting sent

to packing plants for beef production.

The U.S. has steadily increased Mexican cattle imports over the years. In 2023, about 1.1 million cattle entered from Mexico, up from about 870,000 the year prior. An extended drought coupled with higher U.S. cattle prices contributed to that increase, said Anderson, the economist.

“We have the smallest cow herd in the U.S. since 1961, so we have higher prices here,” Anderson said about Texas’ cattle industry. “That makes us an attractive market for Mexico to sell to.”

Federal officials have not specified when cattle shipments will resume, but a USDA spokesperson said in

late December that shipments would resume “incrementally after the New Year, with full resumption sometime after that.”

“Protecting American livestock from foreign pests is our top priority,” the spokesperson said in an email.

Anderson said he does not expect consumers to see significant increase in beef prices if trade resumes this month.

For Bustillos, the longer the shutdown continues, the more concerned he grows about the market. Cows are imported at certain times of year based on their weight and the availability of grass for them to graze. If the border does not reopen soon, he says, cattle could start to lose value.

For now industry leaders are hopeful trade opens up soon.

“The hope is that in January we’ll start to see some semblance of normal trade,” Weinheimer said.

“We don’t want them back’

Anderson has heard enough stories about screwworm from his father to know the damage they can bring.

“Every day they had to grab each pig and look for wounds and sores,” he said. “They’d clean them out and put medicine on...It was horrible.”

So Anderson says it makes sense for the USDA to address screwworm before it’s anywhere near the U.S.

“It would cost more to eradicate them if you let the problem grow bigger,” he said. The screwworm is

eliminated by dropping sterile male flies from airplanes over large areas. Female screwworm flies mate only once in their lifetime, so the loads of sterile male flies caused the population to eventually die out. That method is the only way to eradicate the screwworm today, according to the USDA.

Jim Schwertner, who operates a ranch in Williamson County, was a young boy helping run his family business when the sterile fly technique was introduced in Texas. He said it was a game changer and eliminated the screwworm within a year.

“When they finally eradicated it, life was a whole lot easier for my dad and his cowboys,” Schwertner said.

Schwertner recalled treating cattle hit by screwworm. “You’d put insecti-

cide on with a paintbrush to keep the screwworm off the cattle,” he said. “It was a lot of work and really expensive.”

The technique has been used to create a biological barrier against the screwworm in Panama. But the pest has exploded there and crept northward in recent years, spreading through Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Honduras and Guatemala. Texas and U.S. animal health officials attribute the spread to new areas of farming and increased cattle movement. Federal officials approved a \$165 million emergency investment last month to stop screwworm from entering the U.S. and to help partners in Mexico and Central America eradicate it. The eradication of screwworm has likely preserved Texas’ wildlife population.

**SE TEXAS R.A.I.N.**  
Southeast Texas Regional Alerting & Information Network

**KEEPING SOUTHEAST TEXAS INFORMED**

**i ABOUT US**      **★ SE TEXAS R.A.I.N.**      **@ COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

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**EMAIL US:**  
info@setexasrain.com

**FOR RAINFALL AMOUNTS & RIVER LEVELS VISIT US AT:**  
**www.setexasrain.org**

# THE RECORD

## Community Classifieds

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

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

# Classifieds

## 409•886•7183

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

### APPLIANCES

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

### FOR RENT

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

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

### RV SPACE FOR RENT

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

### HELP WANTED

**HELP WANTED**  
FULL TIME & PART TIME GROCERY STOCKERS GROCERY CHECKERS DELI WORKERS APPLY IN PERSON ONLY NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE!  
K-DAN'S SUPER FOODS - 9604 FM 105  
DANNY'S SUPER FOODS 2003 Western

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of **HELEN JANUARY, Deceased**, were issued on **September 24, 2024, in Cause No. 14352**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **HATTIE GOODWIN**.

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: **HATTIE GOODWIN**  
12311 Courtney Greens Rd  
Houston, TX 77089

Dated the 14th day of January, 2025.

*Tommy Gunn*  
Tommy Gunn

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

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **CLARENCE PHILLIP WILLIAMS, JR., Deceased**, were issued on **January 7, 2025, in Cause No. P20163**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **TERESSA GAIL WILLIAMS**.

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: **TERESSA GAIL WILLIAMS**  
7755 Roger Street  
Orange TX 77632

Dated the 8th day of January, 2025.

*Tommy Gunn*  
Tommy Gunn

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

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of **CLAUDIA H. HASTY, Deceased**, were issued on **January 7, 2025, in Cause No. P20166**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **JAMES SCOTT HASTY**.

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: **JAMES SCOTT HASTY**  
504 Gardenia Avenue  
Orange TX 77630

Dated the 8th day of January, 2025.

*Tommy Gunn*  
Tommy Gunn

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

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of **LARRY STANLEY DEWITT, Deceased**, were issued on **January 8, 2025, in Cause No. P20123**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **CARRIE LYNN DEWITT**.

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: **CARRIE LYNN DEWITT**  
495 Mill Street  
Vidor TX 77662

Dated the 9th day of January, 2025.

*Tommy Gunn*  
Tommy Gunn

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

### NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of **GLEN R. GREEN, Deceased**, were issued on **January 8, 2025, in Cause No. P19919**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **DANNYE GREEN**.

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: **DANNYE GREEN**  
635 Idylwood Street  
Bridge City TX 77611

Dated the 13th day of January, 2025.

*Tommy Gunn*  
Tommy Gunn

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

### DOMESTIC CITATION BY PUBLICATION/PC - CDVPCWD

#### THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: **Terra Devanna Hoffpauir, Respondent**,

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

The petition of **Cindy Wise**, Petitioner, was filed in the **128th District Court of Orange, Texas** on **22nd day of May, 2024**, against **Terra Devanna Hoffpauir**, numbered **240305-D** and entitled **In the Interest of Sienna Angel Hoffpauir A Child. The suit requests Original Petition In Suit Affecting The Parent-Child Relationship And Request For Temporary Restraining Order.**

The date and place of birth of the child/ren who is/are subject of the suit:

Sienna Angel Hoffpauir 7/19/2015 Beaumont, Texas

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

ISSUED AND GIVEN under my hand and seal of said Court at Orange, Texas, this January 10th, 2025

*Anne Reed*  
ANNE REED, District Clerk

Orange County, Texas  
By: /S/RAMEE FOWLER, Deputy

## EVERYONE READS THE RECORD

### FOR SALE

**Pellet BB Gun** for sale \$40.00. Call 409-238-0446 to meet at WalMart to pick up.

### HELP WANTED

**Lansdale Painting** has openings for experienced painters and drywall finishers to work on commercial properties in Beaumont, Orange, Nederland, and Port Arthur Texas with working hours from 7:00 am to 3:30 pm and compensation ranging from \$15 to \$25 dollars per hour. Call Brent for a phone interview at 409-728-8192. If there is no answer, leave a message and I will call you back shortly.

### FREE ITEMS

**Model Train set** in box & Model Boat for free. Call 409-238-0446 to meet at WalMart for pick up.

### FOR SALE

**409-886-7183**  
or  
**409-313-6611**

### American

**Legion Post 49**  
409-886-1241  
**Hall Rental**

There will be an auction to satisfy a landlords lean on Friday, January 31st at 4:00pm at Johnson's Mini Storage 2400 MLK Drive in Orange TX.

The following units contain household furniture and misc items.

- A17, B14 Simmons
- C06 D\*02 White
- D16 Herman
- E52 Kelley
- E75 Utz
- F03 Ashton
- I\*12 Costlow
- R\*01 Castillo
- I\*03 Samuel
- I\*07 Tarver

- LEGAL NOTICES •
- ENGAGEMENTS •
- WEDDINGS •
- ANNIVERSARIES •

Please call us at: 409-886-7183 or Email us at: news@therecordlive.com OR ads@therecordlive.com

The family of Susie Repasky invite you to join us for Birthday Cake on her 100th Birthday



Date: Jan. 18, 2025  
Time: 2-4 p.m.  
Where: Knight Columbus Hall  
770 Ave., Bridge City, TX  
We hope to see you there!

## BUSINESS CARD LISTINGS

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

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

ORANGE'S OLDEST HOMETOWN APPLIANCE DEALER  
SINCE 1963  
**HARRY'S APPLIANCE & SERVICE, INC.**  
• FREEZERS • DISHWASHERS  
• REFRIGERATORS • WASHERS & DRYERS  
• RANGES • AIR CONDITIONERS  
We sell parts for all major brands - We service what we sell!  
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**FREE ESTIMATES**  
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Driveways & Parking Lots

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- Grass Installation
- Tree Removal
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