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Covid a physical, mental toll on schools

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Mid-year retirements increased for teachers in the Little Cypress-Mauriceville school district and its superintendent says Covid-19 is to blame.

"I think I have seven or eight that are leaving Dec. 31 and I've never had that," Stacey Brister, third-year superintendent and 20-year administrator in the district, said.

"I think Covid has played a major, major role in that. Not only Covid itself, but how it

affects people as far as a teaching standpoint. Our teachers are teaching dual roles. They're a face-to-face teacher during the day and a virtual teacher at night."

At Orangefield's school district, which has an enrollment a little over half the size of LCMCISD, superintendent Shaun McAlpin said he had no teachers retire between the end of the fall semester and next week's start of the spring 2021 semester.

He did allow that some teachers "that were close" to earning full retirement at the end of the spring 2020 se-

mester, didn't come back for the current school year, which began in August.

Beginning last March, the pandemic forced schools to adopt virtual learning for the final three months of the last spring's semester. Not all

teachers – or students – easily adapted to online education.

For the 2020-21 school year all Orange County school districts offered online classes, though the emphasis has been on in-school

face-to-face education. The schools have received and spent millions of dollars in CARE Act funds to create safe spaces to follow protocols regarding social distancing and mask wearing.

The virus that yielded

5,000 positive cases in Orange County in 2020 and been blamed for about 50 deaths (46 says the county, 70 says the state), is new and the list of precautions is constantly changing.

COVID, SCHOOLS Page 3A

Tools store nears opening in Orange County

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

West Orange Mayor Roy McDonald says that while a big box store already exists to sell lumber or housewares, Harbor Freight Tools will be the place to buy the tools once it opens in early 2021.

"We're looking forward to that," he said.

The California-based, family-owned company already has stores in Port Arthur, Beaumont and Lake Charles but its new location at 3109 Edgar Brown Drive (Texas 87), between Wendy's and Walmart, will be its first

in Orange County.

It is expected to open by late February or early March, Craig Hoffman, Harbor Freight's Director of Communication, said.

"We sell more than 7,000 quality tools at low prices," he said. "We've been around for 43 years and the secret to our success is we deal directly with manufacturers, not wholesalers, and pass the savings on to our customers."

The new store is using local contractors and workers in its new construction and

HARBOR FREIGHT Page 3A



Harbor Freight Tools is expected to open its new location near the Orange Walmart in the first quarter of 2021.
RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers



Electrical contractors begin installing wiring in what will become the new Harbor Freight facility in West Orange.
RECORD PHOTO: Janelle Sehon

President's signature pushes drainage study funds

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

While Congress and the White House go back and forth on whether to increase individual stimulus payments from \$600 to \$2,000, Texas Sen. John Cornyn is taking a well-timed victory lap.

The \$1.4 trillion bill to fund government agencies that President Trump signed Sunday night along with the \$900 billion pandemic relief package included the Water Resources Development Act of 2020. That will fund a feasibility study for the Port Arthur and Orange County flood risk management project.

That project will allow

construction of improvements to interior drainage.

Cornyn included 20 priorities in the act, including a Jefferson County ecosystem restoration project.

"We can't prevent natural disasters, but we can prepare for them," Cornyn said. "With the President's signature, 20 different projects will move forward, further protecting Texans from severe flooding and catastrophic storms."

The \$25 feasibility study is the predecessor of a hoped-for \$100 million project applied for jointly by Orange County, Jasper County, Newton County, Orange County Drainage District and the Sabine River Authority, explained David

Montagne, the SRA's general manager.

"We got short-listed for three of these grants from the Texas Water Development Board and the big project – for \$100 million – is the one that would be awarded by the GLO (Texas General Land Office), but it's actually federal Housing Department money," Montagne said.

"There's \$4.2 billion being distributed by GLO and they're going to do about 10 of these big projects, but they don't want to spend all of their money in Harris County. This would alleviate some flooding in Orange County."

Orange County Commissioners Court joined an

eight-county coalition with Jefferson County that covered the Sabine, Neches and Trinity River basins. But the group quickly divided to subdivide.

"Everybody's going to have to go after their own pieces," Montagne said.

"If you started looking at a project that was regional, it would be in the billions and you'd never get it.

"So we're concentrating on this \$100 million project for Orange County. The Drainage District has another project we think is really good, a \$5 million project, and we've got a \$10 million project, ourselves in there.

"We're going to try to get

DRAINAGE Page 3A



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Deaths & Memorials

Jimmy Glenn LaComb, 64, Bridge City

Jimmy Glenn LaComb, 64, passed away Wednesday, December 23, 2020 at his son's home in Bridge City, Texas.

Jimmy was born on March 24, 1956 in Orange, Texas to Glenn John LaComb and Faye Martin LaComb. He was a 1974 graduate of Bridge City High School and graduated with a master's degree in Psychology from Lamar University. In his early years Jimmy was a journeyman electrician with IBEW Local 479 in Beaumont, Texas. Due to an injury while working on a job in New York City, he was forced to make a career change and went back to college. After obtaining his degree he became a Licensed Professional Counselor.



Jimmy Glenn LaComb

Jimmy had been in private practice in Beaumont before moving to Longview, Texas where he worked as a mental health provider in nursing homes and the Veteran's Home. He had recently

moved back to Bridge City to live with his son due to declining health issues. Jimmy was a big fan of football having played in high school and college. He was a huge lover of animals, especially dogs. He was known to always have bags of dog food in the back of his SUV to feed the strays.

Jimmy was preceded in death by his mother and stepfather, Faye and Ted Linscomb.

He is survived by his father, Glenn LaComb of Hemphill, Texas; son and daughter-in-law, Jarred and Chrissy LaComb; granddaughter, Cambree LaComb all of Bridge City, Texas; sisters, Debbie LaComb Pool

(Bob) of Clearlake, Texas, Kathy LaComb Bourgeois (Michael) of Orange, Texas, and Vanessa LaComb Kernes (Brian) of Spring, Texas; brothers, Jerry Anderson (Brenda) of Orange, Texas and Dale Bond (Peggy) of Tomball Texas; step-sister, Kim Linscomb Shoemake (Todd) of Montgomery; and his two beloved fur babies Paige and Shadow.

Cremation is under the direction of Claybar Funeral Home. A graveside service will be 10:00 a.m., Thursday, December 31, 2020, at Hillcrest Memorial Cemetery. Officiating will be Reverend Ryan Chandler of Trinity Baptist Church of Orange.

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TEXAS STATE NEWS

EPA moves to keep coal companies insulated from tougher rules

Erin Douglas
The Texas Tribune

Texas may soon get authority over the disposal of ash from coal-fired power plants, a change that could insulate coal companies from tougher rules expected under a Biden administration.

A proposal introduced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency this month would allow Texas to regulate coal ash instead of the federal agency. The move comes just after the EPA this year weakened the Obama-era rule on coal ash pollution amid other rollbacks and rule-making maneuvers cementing the Trump administration's environmental agenda.

Coal ash is a byproduct of burning coal for power generation. The ash is typically dumped into detention ponds or pits and can leach toxic chemicals, such as arsenic, lead and mercury, into groundwater. All of the coal power plants in Texas have coal ash disposal sites that are leaking contaminants, according to data analyzed by the Environmental Integrity project in 2019.

President-elect Joe Biden's reported pick to head the EPA, Michael Regan, currently leads North Carolina's environmental agency and has a record of cracking down on coal ash pollution: In North Carolina, he fought to obtain a huge settlement over an 80 million ton coal ash cleanup by Duke Energy — the largest coal ash contamination cleanup in U.S. history.

But if Texas gets authority to implement the coal ash rules before Biden's new EPA chief has a chance to strengthen the standards, the program could act as a temporary shield for the industry because the state would need to work through a lengthy process to modify already-issued registrations to coal companies.

Oklahoma and Georgia are the only two states that currently have approval to operate the EPA's coal ash program. Texas' program won't be effective until at least February, when the public comment period ends.

Getting control from the EPA

High-profile accidents involving coal ash in recent years, highlighted by the failure of a coal ash impoundment in Tennessee that spilled a billion gallons of coal ash

slurry, put pressure on the EPA to introduce tougher standards. Before 2015, there were no requirements for coal companies to properly line the pits where they dumped the toxic ash — nearly 130 million tons of which was generated in 2014.

Under former President Barack Obama, the EPA for the first time introduced standards on what experts say are poorly lined pits and ponds containing coal ash across the nation. But in 2016, the EPA under President Donald Trump began to delay and then walk back that proposal, and the agency was soon directed by Congress to create a program allowing states to operate the federal standards instead of the EPA. That set off a multi-year effort in Texas to wrangle control away from the federal agency, but first, Texas had to change its rules.

During the 2017 legislative session, state lawmakers earmarked \$390,000 per year to fund four full-time Texas Commission on Environmental Quality employees to seek the federal approval for a state program they would then manage. In 2019, the TCEQ created the coal ash management program, which became effective in May of 2020.

Finally, in September, Texas was ready to apply to the EPA for approval of its newly created coal ash regulation, which would issue state registrations to companies that last for the life of a facility.

The EPA proposed the Texas program for partial approval this month.

Coal ash contamination

A 2015 regulation known as the "Coal Ash Rule" that Trump's EPA has partially rolled back required companies to report how much contamination was found in groundwater surrounding coal ash ponds and pits. The rollbacks loosen the requirements for public reporting of the data.

In Texas, an Environmental Integrity Project analysis of that public data found that all of the coal power plants in Texas were leaking contaminants including arsenic, boron, cobalt and lithium into groundwater near the coal ash pits at unsafe levels.

The report also found that almost none of the impoundments where plants dispose of coal ash are properly lined to prevent leakage into groundwater — a requirement of the

Coal Ash Rule.

The toxic mix of mercury, arsenic and lead leaking from the ponds or pits can pollute groundwater and drinking water supplies, as well as contaminate surrounding soil. At a Christine, Texas, ranch, owners have claimed that coal ash pollution from San Miguel Electric Cooperative's coal-fired power plant has destroyed huge swaths of their land, creating dead zones of vegetation.

But while a Biden-led EPA is expected to roll out tougher rules on that kind of pollution, it will be difficult to reverse approval of Texas' program now that the EPA has set it in motion, said Russ, of the Environmental Integrity project.

"If the Biden administration wants to do something different, they'll have to explain why they're changing positions from the proposal," Russ said.

He noted that the EPA will also have a long list of rules to re-implement nationwide, and Texas' proposal may already be too deep into the process to justify spending the political and administrative resources needed to reverse it. The Trump Administration has taken aim at rolling back more than 100 EPA rules, according to a New York Times analysis.

"It's not impossible," Russ said, but "you have to prioritize."

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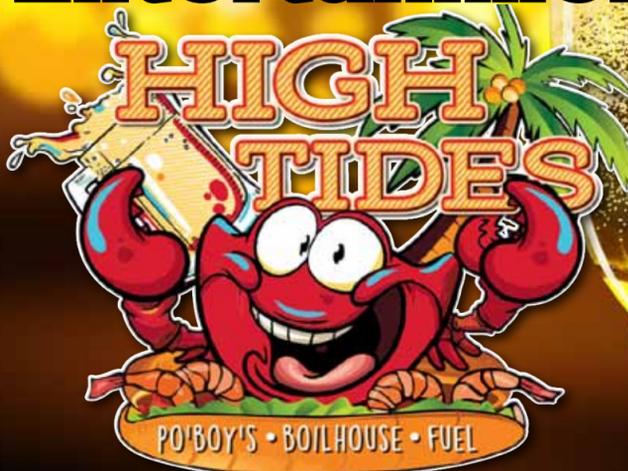
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A special thank you to all that checked on me, cared for and fed me during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Your thoughtfulness meant so much. Wishing you and yours a very Happy New Year!

Essie Bellfield



Covid, Schools

From Page 1

"We've revised our protocols five or six times since school started," McAlpin said.

According to statistics for Orange County school districts turned in to the Texas Education Agency and reported on the Texas Department of State Health Services website, teachers and adult staffers make up about 40 percent of the 368 cases of Covid-19 reported by Bridge City, Little Cypress-Mauriceville, Orangefield, Vidor and West Orange-Cove since July 27.

That despite the fact the numbers of teachers and staffers equal about 15 percent of the student enrollment.

Because of protocols advocated by the Center for Disease Control and put into place by the state, when an on-campus case of Covid-19 is discovered, those who have been in close contact with an infected student or adult, must be sent home to quarantine. The same goes for those who have had close contact with a family member or other infected person away from school.

The teaching roster is stretched. And stretched some more.

"We have been really searching and seeking out subs and trying to contact our retired teachers," Brister, the LCM superintendent,

said. "Would you be willing to come back in? We hire kids who are home from the colleges, as long as they have those fingerprints [background checks] done and they're safe to go into the classroom. We have hired several former students as substitutes in the last few weeks. We just try to get them in the classroom."

"It's not what we want. We want our staff to be there. But if they can't be there, what can we do?"

The final 2020 TEA stats posted by the DSHS, show the county's largest district, Vidor, with 4,246 students enrolled Oct. 30, also with the most reported total Covid cases since July 27 -- 119. Broken down, they include 64 students and 55 adults.

The second-largest district, LCM, with 3,198 students on Oct. 30, reported 87 cases, 64 of them students and 23 adults.

Bridge City, with 3,029 students enrolled Oct. 30, reported the fewest cases, 43, including 33 students and 10 adults.

West Orange-Cove, next with 2,516 students on Oct. 30, reported 45 cases, 18 students and 27 adults.

Orangefield, smallest district in the county with an Oct. 30 enrollment of 1,791, had the third-highest count of Covid cases -- 74, according to the spreadsheet avail-

able on the DSHS website. Its total resulted from 41 student cases, 33 adult.

McAlpin didn't find fault with the total of 74, noting that was only 3.6 percent of the total amount of district students and adult teachers and staff.

But the Orangefield schools boss did note that nearly 40 percent of his district's grand total, 29 cases, have been reported since Thanksgiving.

"Not all of those were not school-related," he said.

Bridge City, which began its 2020-21 school year on Aug. 3, has not registered an after-Thanksgiving spike since its final day of class for 2020 was Nov. 20, before Thanksgiving.

Reporting requirements for schools are tricky, Orangefield's McAlpin said.

"It's not supposed to include people who are positive because of being around family members at home," he said. "It's only school-related positives contracted at school."

"Once we get a positive case, we do a contact trace. We go back and ask them who they've been around the last 48 hours. But kids can't remember. An 11-year-old is worried about what sneakers he's wearing that day, or a girl, or a basketball game or a big test."

McAlpin said Orangefield has used security videotape to trace students' contacts, especially in the cafeteria.

"We try to spread them out in our classrooms and the cafeteria, but we've had some blunders by kids who don't follow protocols," he said.

LCM's Brister worries about the pandemic's effect on learning.

"Not only is this disease causing an economic issue for families, it has the potential to cause an educational gap that we may never recover from," she said. "If your child is in school and X number of teachers are subs We know the best quality education is going to come from that teacher, not a sub."

The coming of a vaccine for Covid-19 and herd immunity is the answer everyone is anxiously awaiting.

McAlpin said Tuesday he hadn't heard any plans for teachers to be given the vaccine in any sort of preferential order.

County Judge John Gothia said Orange County was slow in getting the vaccine primarily because it had no hospital and so no hospital workers. He expected county nursing homes to get the next batch.

Others on the DSHS priority list to receive the vaccine while it is in limited supply include school nurses and first responders. Those 65 and older and those with chronic medical conditions are at the bottom of the Phase 1 list. School teachers will be vaccinated under Phase 2, Gothia said.

Drainage

From Page 1

the \$100 million one, but we're going to apply for the others, too, so if we lose on the big one, maybe we'll get one of the smaller ones."

The big project includes building retention ponds in lower Jasper and Newton counties to delay the rush of rainwater down to Orange County. County Line Ditch, which begins in Jasper County, will be improved to run more water east to the Sabine.

At the same time, retention ponds would be added in Little Cypress and Mauriceville and "we'd like to take some water off Cow Bayou and bring it straight to the Neches," Montagne said.

"It's a pretty big undertaking, but if we do it, it'll keep quite a few people from flooding."

The SRA offices are located in Orange County and Montagne want to see it get its due.

"The feds are going to spend this money, and we want some of it to come back to Orange County. We don't seem to usually get our fair share. So let's get our fair share."

AA meeting at Good Shepherd

AA meetings are being offered on Tuesday (open) and Thursday (closed) mornings at 9:30 am at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, located at 945 W. Roundbunch Road, Bridge City. Join us for coffee & donuts at the perfect meeting for imperfect people. For more information, please call, text at 409-221-0704 or email lolabell.102360@gmail.com.

Harbor Freight

From Page 1

expects to create between 25 and 30 new jobs.

People interested in jobs should apply online at www.harborfreightjobs.com/retail and search "West Orange, TX."

McDonald said the new business will fit well in a retail sector that has welcomed new chain stores, such as KFC on MacArthur Drive, the Chevron gas and convenience store at Foreman Road and FM 105 and the Dollar General on Western

Avenue, near City Hall.

"We're glad to have all of them," he said. "They've been a shot in the arm."

The mayor noted that multi-billion and multi-million investments in West Orange remained possible in the Chevron Phillips Chemical ethylene plant and the adjoining railcar business for which the county had created reinvestment zones and offered tax abatements.

"All that was just about to happen when Covid came

and everything went on hold," McDonald said. "A big new construction like that is hard with Covid coming and all the suppliers and labor closing down and everything."

Work on the Harbor Freight location near Walmart continues. The company has more than 1,100 stores and has been opening two new stores per week. West Orange will be its 97th location in the state of Texas.

"We're not as big as big box stores," Hoffman, the com-

munications director, said. "Most of our stores are about 15,000 square feet. You don't have to go through six stores to get to us."

"We hire local, use local contractors and suppliers to build. We're proud to contribute the the local economy."

Community involvement is big with Harbor Freight, Hoffman said.

"We work with high schools, and school foundations. We're not just a business, we're a community member," he said.

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.

News Tips and Photos

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 <p>2017 Honda Civic Sedan LX Sedan 2.0L 4 Cyl., Variable Transmission, Exterior Color: Red, Interior Color: Black, Mileage: 43174, Stock #: T8058A</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$13,937</p>	 <p>2017 Kia Sorento LX SUV 2.4L 4 Cyl. Engine, Automatic Trans., Exterior Color: Sangria, Interior Color: Satin Black, Mileage: 53225, Stock #: P2292</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$13,995</p>	 <p>2017 Chevrolet Traverse LT SUV 3.6L 6 Cyl. Engine, Automatic Trans., Exterior Color: Silver Ice Metallic, Interior Color: Ebony, Mileage: 99449, Stock #: P2288</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$16,033</p>	 <p>2017 Dodge Journey GT SUV 3.6L 6 Cyl. Engine, Automatic Trans., Exterior Color: Vice White, Interior Color: Black Red, Mileage: 20147, Stock #: P2283</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$17,294</p>
 <p>2020 Ford F-150 LARIAT SuperCrew 3.5L 6 Cyl., Automatic Trans., Exterior Color: Black, Interior Color: Black, Mileage: 13780, Mileage: 13780, Stock #: P2254</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$49,111</p>	 <p>2018 Toyota Highlander XLE SUV 3.5L 6 Cyl., Automatic Trans., Exterior Color: Silver, Interior Color: Black, Mileage: 47475 Stock #: P2295</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$28,667</p>	 <p>2018 Ford F-150 XL SuperCrew Cab 2.7L 6 Cyl., Automatic Trans., Exterior Color: Magma Red Metallic, Interior Color: Black, Mileage: 45746, Stock #: P2266</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$32,337</p>	 <p>2016 GMC Yukon Denali SUV 6.2L 8 Cyl., Automatic Trans., Exterior Color: Sparkling Silver Metallic, Interior Color: Cocoa Dark Atmosphere, Mileage: 79944, Stock #: 8008B</p> <p style="font-size: 2em; color: red;">\$33,641</p>

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From The Creaux's Nest

2020: WORSE YEAR SINCE 1918

President Donald Trump's impeachment trial was overwhelmed by a deadly pandemic, a racial divide, and a president's baseless attacks on the election itself. The past 12 months have left the United States a different place. Even though the U.S. is 4% of the world's population, it has recorded nearly 345,000 deaths and 19.5 million cases of COVID-19, 21% of the world's deaths and cases. It didn't have to be this way. The Commander-in-Chief wasn't at his post. I am jealous of Canada, a country that got to celebrate Christmas in the old fashioned traditional way with large gatherings at grandma's house. To everyone who lived it, 2020 will forever be the worse year in their lifetime. **Thank God it's coming to an end** and also coming to a close is a four year nightmare.

WELCOME 2021

After a train wreck year, the coming of the New Year will be like a breath of fresh air. I hope and pray for brighter days ahead but I suspect I won't relax until after Jan. 20. Those 20 days will seem like three months. **Expect anything.** I'm confident Joe Biden will be sworn in as 46th president on Jan. 20. As for me, like many of you, the vaccine can't get here fast enough. So far it's been a very slow roll out. I look forward to getting out with my friends. My hope is that by March 17, we can have a big Lunch Bunch reunion. I'm optimistic about the country's new leadership. **I believe good things will come our way** but it won't be overnight, plus a lot of obstacles will be designed to prevent any progress by the new administration. Biden is not a novice, he's an old pro and I'm betting on him. We should all be because this country is in a deep, dark hole. It will take some doing to erase four years of abuse like the country had never seen before. My hope is our great country will heal and be made whole again. **Happy New Year.** I must move on. **Come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.**

2020 Ends on Darkest Day of COVID-19

COVID-19 cases and deaths are skyrocketing nationwide, taxing hospital staff and facilities. More school disruptions seem inevitable, vexing students and frustrating parents. The recession has plunged millions into unemployment, challenging the incoming administration of President-elect Joe Biden to provide relief. Partisan politics linger, undermining the kind of united front necessary to stem the tide of death and economic disruptions. The next few months promise to bring the worst of this pandemic to our door. It should never be shrugged off when the leader of a great nation abandons his people in a pandemic, leaving them to disease and death and turning his brilliant, wealthy country into a global role model for failure. **From testing, contact tracing and identifying mutations of the coronavirus,** to shortages of personal protective equipment and inadequate, belated and sometimes non-existent economic aid, America's response has been a rolling tragedy of mistakes, inaction, confusion, false starts, false information, propaganda, lies and disrespect for science. It should never be shrugged off when an entire political party betrays an entire country. **That's true of the pandemic alone,** before even considering the urgent needs of the economy, the environment, international relations, racial inequities, immigration, the rule of law, American ideals, and the nuts-and-bolts damage that Trump has inflicted on federal agencies from A to Z. As competence and honesty make a comeback with Biden, one can only hope that America will notice, and will never let a Trump happen again.

Remembering Jimmy LaComb

I was very sad to learn of the death of Jimmy Glenn LaComb, age 64, who passed away December 23, 2020. A graveside service will be held at 10:00 A.M. Thursday, December 31, at Hillcrest Memorial Cemetery. I had known Jimmy since he was 8-years-old and I coached him in Pee-Wee football. I also had known his mother Faye for many years. Jimmy played high school football for Coach Chief Wilson in his last year of coaching at Bridge City. He went off to play football at U.T.A. along with fellow teammate Mark Dunn. I recall Jimmy's marriage to Laura that produced a son, Jarred. It didn't matter where I ran into Jimmy he always took time to talk. He was just one of those good guys that I will always remember. Condolences to his family. May he rest in peace.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2010

Swearing in ceremonies for all elected officials will be Saturday, Jan. 1, at 10 a.m. at the Court House. Newly elected judge, David Peck, will be given the oath of office

by District Judge Pat Clark. The new and first Republican county commissioner, Jody Crump will also be sworn in. Also on Jan. 1, TCU, 12-0, will meet Wisconsin in the Rose Bowl to be aired on ESPN at 3:30 p.m. The entire Carlos Vasek clan is attending the game. Being a preferred alumnus, Carlos will have tickets on the 50-yard line. He is a former Horned Frog halfback. Last week the old gang held a 35-year reunion breakfast. Richard, at Peggy's on the Bayou, cooked a mean country breakfast. In attendance were Dow Gene Anderson, Roy Dunn, Doug Harrington, Curtis Lee, Lyle Overman, H.D. Pate and Wilson Roberts. Missing was Wayne Morse. The group first met for Christmas raw oysters in 1975. Robert's treated the Wednesday Lunch Bunch at the annual pre-Christmas gathering. New Orange police chief Lane Martin stopped by. Also visiting was pretty Miss Coree, Christy Koury's young daughter. Former Orange city manager, Jack Huffman, also had lunch with the Bunch. Skipper Free came all dressed up in her holiday best. A few special folks celebrating their special day this week. Monday, Dec. 27, our buddy Sharon Bearden marked 72 years. He's just now shifting into high gear and ready for a long road head. Some Facebook friends celebrating are Laura Floyd, Dec. 27; Kari Stringer and Kate Kazmar Butcher, Dec. 30; Sandra Hovind, Dec. 31. Also celebrating are Kenny "KeeKee" Dupuis, Robert Hoke, Norma Fusilier and Nancy Lapeyrolerie. Happy anniversary to Roy and Ms. Phyl, married at high noon on Dec. 31, 1954 in Kountze. Also married on the same day, at 7 p.m., 56 years ago were Thomas and Bobbie Miller. Brother Kennedy, at Cove Baptist, married them in a triple ceremony. Fifty years later, on the same day, Jerry and Barbara Childress were wed at home on New Year's Eve with Roy and Phyl in attendance. Best wishes to all. Debora and Joe came home for Christmas from Denver, Colorado. All her rowdy friends showed up at Corky and Betty Harmon's home, broke out the instruments and turned the place into a honky tonk. Debbie creates a party wherever she goes. Music with her friends is always a blast. Bridge City Mayor Kirk Roccaforte suffered a mild heart attack and had to be rushed to the hospital. Not a good way to celebrate his birthday. Also our friend Daniel Jacobs is back undergoing treatments in Houston. His recovery is going well. Our longtime buddy Judy Hidalgo is now being treated in Mid-County. No more long drives and stays in Houston. I wonder what Capt. Chuck Uzzle is going to do with that big Red Fish? We heard from a guy a few weeks ago who says he reads Uzzle and Capt. Dickie Colburn's fishing reports on our web site. Until he discovered it, he says he didn't realize that such a fishing heaven existed anywhere in this country. We get a lot of hits on our fishing columns.

22 Years Ago-Dec. 1998

For the first time in Texas history Republicans own every major office with the exception of the House and Senate. Locally, the first Republican is elected. Cimron Campbell became Justice of the Peace, Pct. 2. Sue Bearden is only the second woman to serve on Commission Court. The first black and also first woman, Essie Bellfield, is mayor of Orange. Coach Joe Hester, of Orangefield, again produced a state pole-vaulting champion. This year Orange Port director Roger Richard left to become director in Baton Rouge. Gene Bouillion was hired to replace him. Ron Sigler is manager of the Orange County Drainage District. Orange County is served in Austin by State Representative Ron Lewis and newly elected state senator, David Bernsen. The college Gray and Blue game won by the Gray, 31-24. Bridge City's Matt Bryant contributed seven winning points with a field goal and four extra points. The Baylor senior is the son of Mary and Casey Bryant of Bridge City. Matt, a walk on in the NFL, has won many pro-games since. He was working at an Orange pawn shop when his chance came. The rest is history. He is now the leading scorer for the Atlanta Falcons. At that time, Jan. 1, 1999, Bridge City had two other youngsters in the NFL, Shane Drone-tt, now deceased, and Jason Matthews, now retired. Jimmy Buntyn passed away at age 43. Judge Marlin Shelton left office this week after 28 years as J.P. Pct. 2. Warren Claybar joins Claybar Funeral Home. Warren becomes the third generation of his family to join the funeral home operations started by his grandfather Lannie, followed by his father Brown. Roy showed his goodness by publishing a positive story on John Harrington. Now, ain't that something?

47 Years Ago-1973

Earl Church went out and got himself run over by a danged old train. Liz Wickersham, Charlie's little girl, is dating Joe Namath.

57 Years Ago-1964

Flashy Eddie Sutton was bleeding but threw caution to the wind and hammered out a unanimous decision over Samuel Foreman, of Lafayette, to win tournaments outstanding boxer award. Other Orange County boxers are Gary McCamey, Ken Ballard, Oscar Dominguez, and Larry Carpenter. Lutch Stark High football players C.E. Riggs and Frank Beauchamp are named to All State 3-A football team.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Attorney Sharon Bearden is now home from a Clear Lake hospital where he and his wife, Liz, had been admitted with bad cases of the coronavirus. The virus mostly attacked Sharon with blood clots in the legs and lungs. He was home with the five dogs when I spoke with him, Liz remained in ICU while she fought off virus inflicted pneumonia. She was due to be released Monday or Tuesday. We are thankful that our friends are on the other side of the illness. Sharon says if someone foolishly says, "It's like the flu, they are lying to you, this stuff is bad." Sharon brought it home but doesn't know where he got it. He said he practiced all the rules, mask, etc. We were also glad to hear that Capt. Dickie Colburn is recovering. I believe he had a harder dose of the virus than his wife Karen. What is

odd is that most people don't know where they contacted the virus. I heard from our friends Tommy and Sue Simar. They are bringing us some frozen figs that Momma will turn into preserves. She has plenty of time now-a-days. The Simar's are staying safe. What became of Margaret Toal? Possibly hiding from COVID-19. I can't locate my birthday list but I do recall that Commissioner Owen Burton celebrated January 3, along with Jim Sharon Bearden. Hard for me to believe Jim Sharon turns 47. Just the other day it seems he was 27. Two beautiful ladies, Beth Rach and Vergie Moreland celebrate on Jan. 4. I believe Norma Fuislier, David's mom, celebrates the last day of the year, Dec. 31. If I'm wrong I bet I'm close. I also recall our late friend Mary Lou Gunn, Tommy's mom, celebrated on Jan. 5. By the way, I really got a kick out of the Rascals birthday card last week. Couldn't stop laughing at how much they looked like the birthday boys. Donald Trump spent nearly 400 days on the golf course and less than 200 days in the Oval office with an average of two hours each day. He attended less than 10% of the National Security briefings. Domestic help say he is the laziest president in the last 30 years. All eyes will be on Georgia on Jan. 5. I believe the state is still Red. Biden winning was a vote against Trump. I was banking on a 90% vote. The undecided usually votes for the challenger on Election Day. The big turnout won't have many folks undecided. Trump going to Georgia and Bernie Sanders' filibuster might move the needle. My best guess is that the GOP incumbents will win in a very close race. If not, it's a windfall for Democrats. I was asked if I believed Trump would attend the inauguration. There's nothing for him to lose, its one large last public appearance. Biden is the kind of guy that would praise him and not be negative. Trump's sick ego will win out. If it doesn't it will be the first time. Trump is expected to pardon 28 more people, including his family, himself and a couple of surprises. I still think Trump will put a plaque on the border wall, his monument. Only ten miles of wall is completed, the rest is about 250 miles of repaired fence. Don't believe anything else. Mexico didn't pay for the wall.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS

Natives celebrating birthdays in coming week. Kari Stringer, Kyler Walron, Paula Aven, Richard Hunter, Jessica Anderson, Joanne Hill, Cynthia Hernandez, Glenda Wilburn, Cody Johnson, Courtney Anderson, David Villanoueva, Kathy Mercer, Ann Burns, Barbara Dardeau, Devin Force, Nancy Lapeyrolerie, Catherine Young, Deborah Schlicher, Malinda Vail.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

Dec. 30, LeBron James, 35; Tiger Woods, 44; Sean Hannity, 58; and Meredith Vieira, 66. Dec. 31, Val Kilmer, 50; Anthony Hopkins, 82; Tim Matherson, 72 and Joe McIntyre, 47. Jan. 1, Veme "Mini-Me" Troyer, 51; Kathleen Casey, 74; and Frank Langella, 82. Jan. 2, Kate Bosworth, 37; Cuba Gooding, Jr., 52; Christy Turlington, 51 and Tie Carrere, 53. Jan. 3, Eli Manning, 39; Mel Gibson, 64; Victoria Principal, 70 and Stephen Stills, 75. Jan. 4, Michael Stipe, 60; Matt Frewer, 62; Dyan Cannon, 83 and Grace Bumbry, 83. Jan. 5, Marilyn Manson, 51; Pamela Sue Martin, 67; Diane Keaton, 74 and Robert Duvall, 89.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Ella Mae Comeaux flew out of Lake Charles to visit her son Donnie Lee and his family in California for Christmas. Monday, while waiting at the LA airport to return home she struck up a conversation with an arrogant California woman, married to a wealthy man. When the two women start talking about children the California woman started by saying, "When my first child was born my hubby built me a beautiful mansion."

Da Cajun lady, Ella Mae, answer, "Well, bless your heart."

The California lady continued, "For my second child, my hubby bought me a Mercedes-Benz."

Again Ella Mae say, "Well, bless you heart."

"When my third child was born my hubby bought me this exquisite diamond bracelet," said the California lady.

Yet again Ella Mae said, "Well, bless your heart."

Den da California woman axe, "What did your husband buy you for your first child?"

Ella Mae answer, "My man Sostan sent me to charm school him."

Da California lady cried out, "Charm school, my God what on earth for?"

Ella Mae responded, "Well, for example, instead of saying who give a big rats ass, I learned to say "Well, bless your heart."

C'EST TOUT

Happy Anniversary Ms. Phyl and Roy

These were the times and happenings all those years ago. It was Friday, the last day of the year of 1954. The date didn't hold any particular significant. The year had seen the New York Giants win the World Series over Cleveland in just four games. In fact, that game was the first color television broadcast. "Determine" won the Kentucky Derby. President Dwight David Eisenhower had been elected in 1953. Allen Shivers had succeeded Texas Gov. Beauford Jester, who died in 1949. Shivers, was elected in 1950, '52 and '54. A postage stamp cost three-cents, gasoline was 21 cents a gallon, a brand new Ford cost between \$1,500 and \$2,400. The average yearly income was \$3,960 and that was a good job. Most were earning \$50 to \$60 a week to raise their families on. Unemployment was at 2.9 percent. A new, top-of-the-line, custom built home cost \$22,000, with only 10 percent down on a 20-year loan. T-bone steak was 95 cents a pound. A loaf of bread was 17 cents, American cheese, 55 cents a pound, eggs, 60 cents a dozen and hamburger meat was 39 cents a pound. Apartment rent averaged \$55 a month. Those were the "Good old days." Happy New Year to all. Stay safe, wear mask and have faith that all will be better in 2021. God bless America.

Sixty-six years of 'hanging on to each other'

DOWN LIFE'S HIGHWAY
ROY DUNN
For The Record

There was no way of knowing our late years would get down to isolation because of a life threatening pandemic. It's certainly not the way we wanted to spend our final years. However, after being in lock down for the past few months, after 66 years of marriage, Phyl and I have found a silver lining.



Roy Dunn

It all started when Phyl started writing down the names of everyone we could remember who we had crossed paths with or were dear friends. Most who were our ages, 84 and 86, had left us way too young. Phyl was making a list of the ordinary people who had impacted our lives.

In my life I had been fortunate to be at just the right place to meet and get to know many celebrities, going back to Audie Murphy, V.P. Johnson, Jack Ruby, Elvis, Bum Phillips to Bob Hope and others in between. Lately, thanks to good weather, we have been spending time in our court yard, visiting about the road we had traveled, about raising children, three our own, pioneering a dozen different ventures. We just hadn't taken time to realize the years were slipping away. Neither one ever gave any thought to age.

Different stages, like reaching 40 years old, etc., which seemed to bother some people, never bothered us. We just now really came to the realization that we are in the fourth quarter, late in the last quarter for me. In our garden visits we discovered that there were so many things that we had never spoken of or had forgotten. We have spoken more about my early childhood and other things than we had through all the years. Phyl learned for the first time that I had attended Allen Military Academy in Bryan. I told her about the first time I met my father Clay and other heart breaking events that followed me throughout my childhood. Hearing this for the first time prompted her to say, "I didn't realize you had such a bad childhood. I'm proud of how you overcame it."

Like I said before, we have operated different businesses, like the Crawfish Bucket in Nederland, each a story of its own. We are mostly known for the newspaper business, but there is so much more. I'm the public face of our newspaper but Phyl has been the one who helped me pioneer the first one, The Opportunity Valley News, that took three years to make a nickel. We then went to Port Arthur and Mid-County with the Community Post. The Post's slogan was, "You can lean on us." The paper became an overnight success. We ran both papers at the same time with the help of our son Mark and daughter Karen



"Papa and Meme Dunn" as their 66th Wedding Anniversary approaches New Year's Eve.

RECORD PHOTO: Mark Dunn

and lots of friends who came in to help.

Nine months after starting the Post, Cox Enterprise, owners of the Port Arthur News, made us an offer we couldn't refuse. We sold the O.V.N. and Triangle Press printing plant, along with The Post. I was paid a considerable sum to be a consultant for five years. They didn't listen to much of my advice. They bought the Orange Leader and changed the leadership. John Dubose became General Manager. The Opportunity Valley News fell by the wayside.

We went back into the newspaper business with four other men, who one by one dropped out, leaving Phyl and I with the Penny Record and we expanded to the County Record. Through all those years Phyl has been the bookkeeper, bill payer and taken care of billing. A lot of work. Besides those chores she also types every word I write, which I do by hand, words no one else can read. I've written a million words and she has typed them all. So if you have been reading stuff for 50 years, the words came through her.

We have had some great years.

We stayed busy but always made time for our children. At one time we were operating three liquor stores, Warehouse, in Orange, Suds, in Little Cypress and Midway, in Bridge City, while putting out the Orange and Port Arthur papers. The kids got off the bus, Phyl fixed them a snack at the store, I would close while she went and prepared dinner, saw to homework, etc. I was very active with the boys in Little League sports which I coached. I most enjoyed helping to raise four of our five grandchildren. I spent many days with Karen's three boys, taking them to practice and lessons. We never had a downtime. Phyl says, "Never bored."

That's just a small example of why we are enjoying a bad virus we didn't ask for; it's giv-

ing us a chance to reminisce about the long road we have traveled. Any success I had I couldn't have done it without her and every day I tell her I love and appreciate her. In better days before the virus, when I went off before she woke, I wrote her a note and a poem which she dated and kept.

I've always played my cards close to the vest and Phyl is a very private person who doesn't believe in airing our private linen. She never gossips on the phone or plays on Facebook. She's careful not to speak badly about anyone. I've never known anyone who knew her that had a reason not to like her. We are opposites who have made a lifetime partnership excel.

Our wedding day, Dec. 31, 1954, was a nice morning and we had agreed to meet down the street from Phyl's house at a certain time. We picked up a friend, Margaret Hunt, who had agreed to be a witness or bridesmaid. She would accompany us to Kountze where a lady J.P. would marry us. Clarence McNelly, the

clerk, would issue the license. We needed a blood test to get a license so several days before, not knowing where to go, I pulled into Hamilton's Clinic, in Beaumont. The doctor and employees were surprised at our request. No one getting married had ever chosen their place for a blood test because it was a hemorrhoid clinic. How in the world could this marriage ever fail with this great start at the hemorrhoid clinic.

We married and returned to Port Arthur. Phyl attended Bishop Byrne Catholic School and had it been discovered that she was married, she wouldn't have been able to graduate in May. The next few months we lived apart with only Margaret knowing about the marriage. Phyl finished school and 10 months to the day, on Oct. 31, our first child Mark was born. Two others followed, Allen two years after Mark and finally four years later, Karen, the girl Phyl was waiting for. Five grandchildren and nine great-grand kids have followed.

The most surprising is how quickly those 66 years have traveled. The odds for any couple making so many years are not very good, not only because of divorce but also sickness and death figures in. If it ends tomorrow, it's been a great ride.

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

As hard as it is to believe, it's been 66 years. It's also as unbelievable that we squeezed so much into one lifetime. That crazy start had all the elements for failure. It was really beating the odds.

These times will pass. I have feared getting the virus which would be hard odds to beat. I think of the horrors some families go through with a spouse dying alone in an ICU unit. I pray Phyl and I can dodge it until we can get a vaccine. We're fortunate to have good friends and a great family around us. Phyl and I will enjoy the time we have left and all of us will just "hang on to one another."

High Tides to celebrate New Year's with fireworks, champagne and live music

Adults looking for a venue to celebrate New Year's Eve might want to ring in 2021 at High Tides, on Cow Bayou in Bridge City.

One of the hottest spots for live music in Orange County is turning up the heat this New Year's Eve, Thursday night, Dec. 31, with a fireworks display, live music and champagne.

High Tides, located at 3109 Texas Ave. in Bridge City, opened earlier this year and has

quickly become a popular destination for residents of Orange County and across Southeast Texas. Not only is it known for its waterfront view and delicious menu, but also for its variety of live music.

On New Year's Eve High Tides will welcoming back New Orleans band Chicken on the Bone. The celebration begins at 6 PM and concludes at 1 AM New Years Day.

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2021

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Holy Habits: 20 New Year's Resolutions for 2021

Patti Maguire Armstrong
Columnist
National Catholic Register

Goodbye 2020! It has been rough. The year actually incentivized making a good New Year's resolution. And by good, I mean holy. The world has always let us down — more so in 2020 — but we know that God has something better for us.

Set goals for self-improvement in this world — such as exercise or quitting smoking — but then, go deeper, down to your soul, and consider ways to grow stronger and closer to God in 2021. Creating holy habits is what inspired me to write Holy Hacks: Everyday Ways to Live Your Faith and Get to Heaven to expand our capacity for holiness while going about the day. Through this approach, our resolutions can pick up speed throughout 2021 as new behaviors easily become habits. Here are some ideas.

1. Give a return on your gifts. When using a gift, say a prayer

for the giver. For instance, I say a Hail Mary for the person who gave me a geranium every time I water it. When using clothing or jewelry someone gave to you, say a prayer for the giver.

2. Commit random acts of prayer. Pick someone to pray for throughout your day. It could be a politician you hear promoting abortion, or someone in a passing car, or a shopper in the grocery line. If someone cuts you off in traffic, pray for them, and your anger will subside — and you will both be blessed.

3. See Jesus more often. Make a weekly appointment to visit Jesus in the tabernacle. The more time you spend with Jesus, the more he can give to you.

4. Bounce-back. As kids we used to say: "I'm rubber, and you're glue; whatever you say bounces off of me and sticks to you." Think of God telling us: "I'm God, and I made you; whatever you do for others comes back to you." Jesus told us: "The

measure with which you measure will be measured back to you" (Matthew 7:10).

5. Become invisible. Look for invisible ways to do good. Skip over a parking spot near the door and pray for the one who will park there instead of you. Put away a shopping cart and pray for the one who left it and the next shopper to use it. "Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you" (Matthew 6:6).

6. Read the Word. Put a Bible somewhere convenient, and open it up once a day.

7. Call the manager and praise an employee. When you've been given good service, call the manager and report it. It will make that employee's day. For a bonus, say a prayer for them.

8. Ask God to arrange your seating and conversations. I know people (and myself) who have had amazing experiences

asking God to direct who we sit next to at events or on planes and to direct our conversations (even when socially distanced). Try it, and I think you will be surprised.

9. Fast daily. Jesus fasted for 40 days before beginning his ministry. To integrate fasting into a daily sacrifice, take something out at meals. Skip the fries or ketchup, or don't put butter on your bread. I'm not suggesting omitting a more serious fast, but why not tap into the power daily?

10. Enjoy the wait. What do you do while waiting for the microwave or while waiting for someone to answer their phone? Turn inconsequential moments into prayers of consequence.

11. End your purchase with a surprise. "Thank you, and have a good day" is so ordinary that cashiers barely hear it. Try saying, "Thank you, and God bless you" with heartfelt expression.

They will hear you, usually smile and sometimes respond: "God bless you, too!"

12. Use sirens and flashing lights as prayer signals. Pray for the person needing the ambulance speeding by and also for whomever is at the end of a police call. For whatever reasons, they could use some extra prayers.

13. Forget about yourself. Humility leads to holiness. Avoid correcting others if it doesn't matter. Be last in line. Thank God for failure, and ask him to lead you to what he wants for you.

14. Talk to people no one can see. Get to know the saint of the day, and ask him or her to pray for you.

15. Give away something you love. It's fine to donate the things you don't use, but occasionally give away a favorite item. It's the difference between

Cain and Abel's offerings to God.

16. Wear a crucifix. It's a silent witness to Jesus' love and sacrifice.

17. Fast some more. Take a day to give up something like coffee, wearing jewelry or makeup, going on social media, or whatever.

18. Have a no-complaint day. Dedicate an entire day each week to not complaining. Weather counts.

19. Do a house blessing. Ask a priest to bless your house in 2021.

20. Give unexpected gifts. Release someone from a debt, anonymously give a gift card or money to someone on hard times, or send a pizza or baked goods to a police station or to a nursing home or to hospital employees or to a big family.

Have a happy and holy 2021!

ORANGE COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

A Horrible Destiny

JOHN PIPER
Founder and Teacher
desiringGod.org

Do you remember the time you were lost as a child, or slipping over a precipice, or about to drown? Then suddenly you were rescued. You held on for "dear life." You trembled for what you almost lost. You were happy. Oh, so happy, and thankful. And you trembled with joy.

That's the way I feel at the end of the year about my rescue from God's wrath. All day Christmas we had a fire in the fireplace. Sometimes the coals were so hot that when I stoked it my hand hurt. I pulled back and shuddered at the horrendous thought of the wrath of God against sin in hell. Oh, how unspeakably horrible that will be!

Christmas afternoon I visited a woman who had been burned

over 87 percent of her body. She has been in the hospital since August. My heart broke for her. How wonderful it was to hold out hope to her from God's word for a new body in the age to come! But I came away not only thinking about her pain in this life, but also about the everlasting pain I have been saved from through Jesus.

Test my experience with me. Is this trembling joy a fitting way to end the year? Paul was glad that "Jesus . . . delivers us from the wrath to come" (1 Thessalonians 1:10). He warned that "for those who . . . do not obey the truth . . . there will be wrath and fury" (Romans 2:8). And "because of [sexual immorality, impurity, and covetousness] the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience" (Ephesians 5:6).

Here at the end of the year, I

am finishing my trek through the Bible and reading the last book, Revelation. It is a glorious prophecy of the triumph of God, and the everlasting joy of all who "take the water of life without price" (Revelation 22:17). No more tears, no more pain, no more depression, no more sorrow, no more death, no more sin (Revelation 21:4).

But oh, the horror of not repenting and not holding fast to the testimony of Jesus! The description of the wrath of God by the "apostle of love" (John) is terrifying. Those who spurn God's love will "drink the wine of God's wrath, poured full strength into the cup of his anger, and he will be tormented with fire and sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever, and they

have no rest, day or night" (Revelation 14:10-11).

"And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:15). Jesus will "tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty" (Revelation 19:15). And blood will flow "from the winepress, as high as a horse's bridle, for 184 miles" (Revelation 14:20). Whatever that vision signifies, it is meant to communicate something unspeakably terrible.

I tremble with joy that I am saved! But oh, the holy wrath of God is a horrible destiny. Flee this, brothers and sisters. Flee this with all your might. And let us save as many as we can! No wonder there is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous (Luke 15:7)!

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Mother Nature being overly kind

CAPT. DICKIE COLBURN
For The Record

More often than not, the joy of receiving a new rod and reel for Christmas is somewhat diminished by inclement weather that is not conducive to spending even a few minutes on the water. That, however, has not been the case of late and eight-year old Joey Lane was already trying out his new rod at his Grandfather's pond the morning after Santa left town.



Dickie Colburn

The only problem for Joey was that Santa failed to leave enough lures to get him through a morning of fishing. Spinner baits are not the best choice of lures for fearless youngsters according to Santa's helper and it didn't take long for him to hang every one of them in a submerged brush pile.

"We'll get them back when it warms up a little," said his Gramps, Jason. Things improved as soon as Jason rigged him up with a cork and a small piece of shrimp. After freeing a small turtle, Joey proceeded to catch five or six ten-pound bream in a row. What a day, even if none of the fish were actually as large as his hand!

While they didn't get any new gear, Everett Whitaker and two friends were equally excited about limiting on trout up to six pounds Sunday afternoon on Big Lake. "We have been catching some solid trout for the past month, but nothing like this," reported Whitaker.

The three Tomball anglers were wading shallow oyster shell and caught all but a couple of their trout on a black/chartreuse She Dog. "We have been catching most of our trout swimming a bone diamond five-inch Assassin, but it didn't get much playing time Sunday," reported Whitaker.

I was a little surprised that they were wading less than three feet of water and never caught the first red. "It was almost like the old days," added Whitaker.

Local anglers, on the other hand, continue to catch their fair share of reds on Sabine. It has been a mixed bag of reds and trout for the waders while the boat fishermen have done better on reds bottom fishing in deeper water. Frozen shrimp or shad have worked the best.

Those anglers that just cannot tolerate bottom fishing are also catching slot reds on a Hoginar, Trap and four inch Swim Bait. They are still bouncing those lures off the bottom, but not having to deal with fresh dead bait!

Local anglers that elected to spend the holidays on Toledo

COLBURN Page 3B

Texas teams could dictate NFL divisions

KAZ'S KORER
JOE KAZMAR
For The Record



Joe Kazmar

Here we are, two days before the beginning of a new year and four days before knowing which National Football League teams will be vying for the coveted Lombardi Trophy which goes to the winner of the Super Bowl.

As sorry as our two NFL franchises have played during this weird pandemic-influenced season, both the Houston Texans (4-11) and the Dallas Cowboys (6-9) should be determining factors in which teams win the AFC South and NFC East divisions.

That's because the Texans are hosting the Tennessee Titans, who are tied with Indianapolis for first place in the AFC South, and the Dallas Cowboys, who have an outside shot at the NFC East Division championship with a Washington loss and a Dallas road win over the New York Giants on Sunday.

Regardless of who wins the NFC East championship, the division champion will enter the playoffs with a dismal won-loss record below .500.

The Texans' front office is wanting Head Coach Romeo Crennel to bench quarterback Deshaun Watson for this



The Texans' front office is wanting Head Coach Romeo Crennel to bench quarterback Deshaun Watson for this final game.

final game--which is meaningless for--because he hurt his elbow late in Sunday's 37-31 loss to Cincinnati when Watson's throwing hand got caught in the facemask of Bengals' defensive end Sam Hubbard and he landed awkwardly on his right elbow.

The front office doesn't want to risk Watson suffering a serious injury that could turn away some good prospects for the general manager and head coaching positions that need to be

filled in January. But I don't think the NFL will allow a team to bench its starting quarterback in a game where the division championship is on the line.

Both the Colts and Titans have identical 11-4 records going into the final regular-season game. However, Indianapolis has a 4-2 record within the division while Tennessee is 4-1 and is

KAZ'S CHRISTMAS Page 2B

Kaz's Fearless Football Forecast . . .

Bowl Games This Week

- ★ DUKE'S MAYO BOWL—11 a.m. Today in Charlotte, N. Car. (ESPN), Wisconsin (3-3) over Wake Forest (4-4).
- ★ MUSIC CITY BOWL—2:30 p.m. Today in Nashville, TN. (ESPN), Iowa (6-2) over Missouri (5-5).
- ★ COTTON BOWL—6:35 p.m. Today in Arlington, TX. (ESPN), Oklaho-

ma (8-2) over Florida (8-3).

★ ARMED FORCES BOWL—11 a.m. Thursday in Fort Worth, TX. (ESPN), Tulsa (6-2) over Mississippi State (3-7).

★ LIBERTY BOWL—3 p.m. Thursday in Memphis, TN. (ESPN), West Virginia (5-4) over Army (9-2).

★ ARIZONA BOWL—3 p.m. Thursday in Tucson, AZ, (CBS), San Jose State (7-0) over Ball State (6-1).

★ MERCARI TEXAS BOWL—7 p.m. Thursday in Houston TX. (ESPN), TCU 6-4 over Arkansas (3-7).

★ PEACH BOWL—11 a.m. Friday in Atlanta, GA. (ESPN), Georgia (7-2) over Cincinnati (9-0).

★ CITRUS BOWL—Noon Friday in Orlando, Fla. (ABC), Auburn (6-4) over Northwestern (6-2).

KAZ'S FEARLESS Page 2B

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La Nina pattern brings dryer than normal conditions to Texas

WARNING: Practice fire safety outdoors this holiday season

Staff Report
For The Record

Increased wildfire potential is expected across much of the state as the holiday's approach due to approaching dry cold fronts and higher-than-normal temperatures. A firefighter is pictured in front of a rolling grassland fire - holiday safety is being called for.

Dry fuel conditions will expand north from the southern Hill Country into the Rolling Plains, southern High Plains, eastern Hill Country and Cross Timbers regions this week. These will align with the pre- and post-frontal winds to create an increase in potential wildfire activity.

Texas A&M Forest Service is calling for everyone to be mindful of fire safety during the holidays. (Texas A&M Forest Service photo)

Dry fuel conditions will expand north from the southern Hill Country into the Rolling Plains, southern High Plains, eastern Hill Country and Cross Timbers regions this week. These will align with the pre- and post-frontal winds to create an increase in potential wildfire activity.

"Most wildland fires this time of year occur just before or just after a frontal passage," said Brad Smith, Texas A&M Forest Service Predictive Services Department head. "These fronts often pass through with little precipitation, but they do bring increased wind before and after the front passes. These increased winds can help to spread fire in a landscape that is full of freeze-cured grasses."

Recent precipitation has favored East Texas and the High Plains, leaving wide-

spread rainfall deficits in much of the western two-thirds of the state. Residents should stay current with local fire weather forecasts due to the rapidly changing fire environments this week.

Texas A&M Forest Service urges everyone to be careful when participating in activities that may start a wildfire or house fire and practice fire safety this holiday season. One spark can ruin a holiday.

• Wrapping paper and tree recycling

The danger doesn't end just because the holidays are over. In Texas, careless debris burning causes the largest number of human-caused wildfires. Unsafe burning of wrapping paper, gift boxes and Christmas trees after the holidays could spark outdoor fires. There are several alternatives for safe disposal, including:

Chip the tree and use the material as mulch in landscaping beds.

Cut the trunk of the tree into small pieces to use as pathway edging.

Composting is a great way to dispose of your tree and

tissue paper. Remove tape, ribbons and bows and recycle the wrapping paper or save it to use again.

Repurpose other items such as newspaper or pillowcases to wrap presents.

Residents should pay attention to county burn bans

and avoid all outdoor burning until conditions improve. Burn ban information can be found by contacting local fire departments or by visiting Texas Burn Bans.

• Firewood safety

Another fire hazard during the holidays is firewood

stacked too close to buildings. Firewood is often cured, or dried, so it is easier to light. This drying process does not just make it easier to start a fire in the fireplace—it makes it easier to

OUTDOOR FIRE Page 3B

Kaz's Korner From Page 1

expected to easily defeat Houston Sunday despite getting blown out at Green Bay Sunday 40-14.

The rest of the conference is set with Kansas City (14-1) wrapping up the West Division and also the home-field advantage and Buffalo winning its first division championship in 25 years.

The Pittsburgh Steelers, after starting the season 11-0 and then losing three in a row, rebounded from a 24-7 deficit late in the third quarter to edge past the Indianapolis Colts 28-24 and secure the AFC North title.

The upstart Cleveland Browns reverted to their ways of years-gone-by as the lowly New York Jets won their second game of the season with a 23-16 upset victory. It was the worst game of quarterback Baker Mayfield's young career as he didn't throw a touchdown pass but had two turnovers and failed his team at crunch time but should land a wild card spot Sunday.

The Seattle Seahawks locked up the NFC West championship Sunday by nipping the gritty Los Angeles Rams 20-9. It was the fifth division championships in 11 seasons under Head Coach Pete Carroll but their first since 2016. The Seahawks' defense had one of its best outings of the season, frustrating Rams quarterback Jared Goff and shutting down their running game.

Green Bay came one step closer to locking up the home field advantage (which is worth at least a touchdown playing in that Arctic weather) by trouncing the Tennessee Titans 40-16 on a snowy field Sunday night before a national audience.

The New Orleans Saints wrapped up the NFC South title and still has an outside shot at the home field with their 8-2 record inside the division if the Packers falter Sunday at Chicago. Second

place Tampa Bay is the only non-division winning team that has clinched a playoff spot. I guess all that money they gave to sign Tom Brady and Rob Gronkowski paid off.

KWICKIES...Coastal Carolina, the undefeated team that I followed all season, had a field goal blocked in overtime of the Cure Bowl Saturday night and the Chanticleers were upset 37-34 by Liberty, which also only has one loss.

If you want to see the most boring offense in college football, watch the Liberty Bowl tomorrow on ESPN at 3 p.m. when Army (9-2) meets West Virginia (5-4). The West Pointers run 95 per cent dive plays and may pass twice in a game if the Black Knights run into a third-and-long situation. They are a 7½-point underdog.

Boise State is pursuing Dallas Cowboys quarterback coach Kellen Moore to become its new head coach.

And speaking of new head coaches, NCAA coaches Urban Meyer, Jim Harbaugh and Pat Fitzgerald should be top contenders for an NFL head coaching job.

Baltimore Ravens Lamar Jackson is the first quarterback in NFL history with back-to-back seasons of 800-plus rushing yards. Going into Sunday's final game, the former Louisville star has rushed for 908 yards.

I was saddened to read that my favorite Polish major league pitcher Phil Niekro died at age 81. The knuckleball artist pitched 5,404 innings in the majors until the age of 48, won 318 games and was a 20-game winner four times.

New Orleans running back Alvin Kamara tied an NFL record with six touchdowns in the Saints 52-33 victory over the Minnesota Vikings. Kamara had a career-high 155 yards rushing.

JUST BETWEEN US...After the Houston Texans lost their fourth straight game—three with late game fumbles—defensive star J.J. Watt delivered a blunt rant admonishing his teammates for their lack of effort in the 37-31 loss to the lowly Cincinnati Bengals Sunday. "Red-faced and filled with emotion, primarily deep feeling of anger, frustration and disgust, defensive end J.J. Watt delivered an epic, expletive-laced rant after Sunday's 37-31 loss to the Bengals at NRG Stadium," Monday's edition of the Houston Chronicle stated. "The sources of the three-time NFL Defensive Player of the Year's ire during a season gone awry: a 4-11 record, a fourth consecutive loss and teammates who evidently don't share his work ethic and professionalism. Watt didn't call out any teammates specifically," the article continued. I guess that's the main reason he wants out of the organization. He wants a Super Bowl ring and knows with the team's rebuilding plans it won't happen in Houston. It would be neat if he signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers and joined his two brothers.

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Kaz's Fearless Forecast From Page 1B

- ★ ROSE BOWL—4 p.m. Friday in Arlington, TX. (ESPN), Alabama (11-0) over Notre Dame (10-1).
- ★ SUGAR BOWL—7:45 p.m. Friday in New Orleans, LA. (ESPN), Clemson (10-1) over Ohio State (6-0).
- ★ GATOR BOWL—11 a.m. Saturday in Jacksonville, Fla. (ESPN), North Carolina State (8-3) over Kentucky (4-6).
- ★ OUTBACK BOWL—11:30 a.m. Saturday in Tampa, Fla. (ABC), Indiana (6-1) over Ole Miss (4-5).
- ★ FIESTA BOWL—3 p.m. Saturday in Glendale, AZ. (ESPN), Iowa State (8-3) over Oregon (4-2).
- ★ ORANGE BOWL—7 p.m. Saturday in Miami Gardens, Fla. (ESPN), Texas A&M (8-1) over North Carolina (8-3).

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OUTDOORS
CAPT. CHUCK UZZLE
For The Record

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



Chuck Uzzle

Probably the biggest and most common factor is the wind, you just can't escape those big gusts that seem to come around every weekend.

The wind is a constant factor and most anglers eventually figure out how to deal with the uncomfortable conditions, some seek shelter in protected waters while others just brave the waves and tough it out. Now aside from the obvious comparisons about the wind the other common factor that plagues anglers during this time of the year is muddy water. Nothing will run off the weekend angler like muddy off colored water.

The misconception about not being able to see in the dirty stuff has cost many a

fisherman a good day on the water.

A good friend of mine, Mac McCune who happens to be in the business of managing freshwater lakes, opened my eyes up about so called muddy water one day while we were fishing on Sabine Lake. We were about half way across the lake heading south-

east towards an area where we had been catching some pretty respectable fish. As we approached I could see that the run off from up north had begun to work its way down the lake and the water that only days before had been so perfect no longer looked like a stale Yoo-Hoo poured on a brown paper bag.

Mac could tell I wasn't real happy about the hand we had been dealt so he asked me what was wrong as we continued to search the area. I explained about how the water clarity was terrible and no self respecting would be anywhere close to this ugly water. Mac calmly reached down into the cooler, found an empty clear plastic water bottle, dipped it into the wa-



Dirty or off colored water will never produce unless you take time to actually fish it. RECORD PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

ter, and filled it up for examination. "This water isn't so bad when you look at it from the angle of the fish" he said as held the bottle up and

peered through the sides. "It looks bad from where we are but you can actually see pretty well when you look through it instead of down

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

Now muddy water has its own particular personality and certain adjustments will have to be made in order to be successful. One benefit that muddy water presents at this time of the year is that it will be warmer than ultra clear water on average.

The suspended particles in the water will hold heat better therefore the temperatures will be warmer. This especially holds true on outgoing tides where warmer water exits marshes and shallow flats. Places where the warmer, muddy or off colored water enters a bay or lake are magnets for predator fish as they often hide on the color change or streak and ambush their prey.

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

One winter on Sabine we

keyed in on a small stretch of shoreline that had 6 or 8 drains and small ditches where water entered and exited the marsh. While wading we could feel the temperature difference in the water on the outgoing tides and that was all we needed to know as we started to put the pieces of the puzzle together. Soon we were in one of those freak stretches where you could do no wrong and you felt every cast was going to produce another big fish.

It was obscene how many fish came from such small areas as they just stacked up in the mouths of these little ditches where the murky water met the clear, I still have really vivid memories of those trips and it still makes me shake my head when I think about it.

Two of the biggest trout I ever caught came from some of the worst looking water I ever fished so you can understand why I believe that you can have success even when the water color or clarity is not the best. The biggest obstacle is convincing yourself that you can actually catch fish in places like this and really giving the area a chance. Once you get over the mental hang up associated with the thought of "I can't see in this water so there must not be any fish here" you will undoubtedly become a better fisherman.

Colburn: Mother nature

From Page 3B

Bend or Rayburn have been in no big hurry to return home. "We were planning on coming home Sunday evening," said Chad Sales, "but my Grandson caught his first eight pound bass that morning and we unpacked the truck. See ya New Years Eve!"

The unexpected Christmas present crushed C.J.'s 3/8ths ounce spinner bait in six feet of water. "That pattern has worked well for us all week," said Sales, "but we haven't been catching bass like that."

"A little turkey might be a

welcomed change," reported Glenda Goins and she was serious. "I have never eaten so much white perch in my whole life. Ralph and the kids keep catching them and I keep cooking them."

Ralph said they are still fishing his brush piles closer to the bottom and the deeper crappie seem to be getting a little smaller on average. They have been fishing with shiners exclusively.

Eddie Hudson gave himself an unexpected Christmas present that would please any fisherman. Due to

a job change requiring relocation several years back, Eddie had methodically packed away items to be used once he returned to the area and forgot about them.

He is currently splitting time between Orange and Toledo Bend and could not have been more surprised or elated when he recently discovered a fishing cache stowed away that he had forgotten about. "I have been like a little kid digging through stacks of Plano boxes filled with everything from crankbaits to worms

and terminal tackle," said Hudson. "Every box is a new surprise!"

In Eddie's case, it wasn't like these were antiquated lures taking up room that no longer worked on Rayburn or Toledo Bend. They simply represented an untapped bass fishing arsenal that will immediately find a place in his Bay Boat. After talking with Eddie, I am not going to wait until next Christmas in hopes of surprising myself. I am going to dig through every sealed box in my attic tomorrow morning!

Outdoor fire safety urged

From Page 3B

start a fire everywhere. When firewood is stacked too close to a home, it can lead a wildfire right up to the structure. Keep firewood stacked at least 30 feet away from all structures.

• Fireworks safety

Fireworks are often used to mark special events and holidays. When using fireworks during the holidays, don't let your fun turn into flames. Check for local restrictions on fireworks and burn bans before use. Fireworks should be used outdoors on flat, smooth surfaces away from dry grass and flammable materials. Always have a water source nearby in case a fire ignites while using fireworks.

• Practice fire safety while enjoying the outdoors

Campfires can be a great source of warmth and fuel for cooking but be sure to keep safety in mind. Locate a safe spot for your campfire, away from anything flammable and far from overhead hazards. Pile up rocks

around your fire to help keep the wind out and fire embers in. When you are done with your campfire, fully extinguish it. Drown, stir and feel the area for heat. Hold your hand just above the wet ashes — if you feel any residual heat, continue to add water and stir. Remember, if it's too hot to touch, it's too hot to leave.

When hunting, be aware of any action that could cause a wildfire. Hot exhaust systems could ignite dry grass. Park only in designated areas or in areas free of anything that can catch fire. Your ammunition type matters when hunting; steel core and full metal jacket ammunition have the highest potential to start wildfires.

People and their activities cause more than 90% of wildfires in Texas.

• Fire weather outlook

The National Weather Service has issued a La Nina Advisory, which states there is a 95% chance La Nina conditions will be present through February and a 65%

chance La Nina will persist through April. Typically, the La Nina pattern brings warmer and dryer-than-normal conditions to Texas during the winter and spring. This translates to less rain and warmer temperatures leading to dry vegetation for large areas of the state creating an increased risk for wildfires.

"An active winter and spring wildfire season is anticipated across Texas," said

Karen Stafford, Texas A&M Forest Service Prevention Program Coordinator. "Residents can take steps now to protect their homes and loved ones. Texas A&M Forest Service encourages residents to be mindful of any outdoor activity that may cause a spark."

If a wildfire is spotted, immediately contact local authorities. A quick response can help save lives and property.

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Pandemic, increased knowledge bring changes in perceptions of food, nutrition



Consumers are now more aware of the importance of foods that serve to boost the immune system.

Paul Schattenberg
Texas A&M AgriLife

The pandemic and other factors in 2020 have not only changed the way consumers relate to food but also how they evaluate their food choices and perceive nutrition in general.

With unprecedented access to research-based information as well as new technological tools, consumers are better understanding the connection between nutrition and wellness, leading to greater personalization of their diets.

With unprecedented access to research-based information as well as new technological tools, consumers are better understanding the connection between nutrition and wellness, leading to greater personalization of their diets.

According to Texas A&M AgriLife experts, these and other trends in nutrition will continue through 2021 and beyond.

More attention to food quality, food chain

Rebecca Seguin-Fowler, Ph.D., associate director of Texas A&M AgriLife Research and associate professor in the Department of Nutrition, said greater transparency in each link of the food

chain will be an important nutrition trend for 2021.

"In recent years, consumers have been eager for more transparency related to the foods they eat and beverages they drink," she said. "They want to know where and how their food is grown — and what, if any, alterations are made to a product before it gets to their table."

Seguin-Fowler said consumers look for brands they can trust to deliver a high-quality, consistent, safe experience that meets their personal nutritional needs and preferences.

"Consumers will continue to be more specific about what types of food and products they feel will provide them with safe and nutritious options," she said. "People are increasingly curious and knowledgeable about ingredients and nutritional content, as well as where their foods come from."

Seguin-Fowler also noted that shortages of some foods and other food access challenges during the pandemic have drawn consumer attention to alternative food choices.

"People have discovered new foods or have found alternatives to the foods they typically purchase," she said. "In some instances, they may have decided these foods were as good as or better

than their regular choices."

Greater focus on foods that support the immune system

The COVID-19 pandemic has also made consumers more aware of the importance of nutrition in a healthy immune system.

"Eating a healthy diet is one way to support a healthy immune system," said Jenna Anding, Ph.D. professor and

AgriLife Extension specialist in the Department of Nutrition and Food Science in Texas A&M's College of Agriculture and Life Science. "There are many nutrients that benefit the immune system and overall health."

For example, Anding said the protein found in lean meats, poultry, eggs, seafood, beans, peas and nuts can help support the immune system. "So does vitamin A, which is found in car-

rots, broccoli, spinach, sweet potatoes, red bell peppers, apricots and other foods fortified with vitamin A such as milk," she said. "The same goes for vitamin C, which you get from citrus fruits, strawberries, bell peppers and tomatoes."

Anding also noted that vitamin E, which is found in sunflower seeds, almonds, peanut butter and avocados, works as an antioxidant and can also help support im-

mune function. Zinc, found in poultry, seafood, lean meats, milk, whole grains, beans, seeds and nuts, also supports the immune system and plays a role in wound healing.

"These are just some of the nutrients that can play a role in supporting a healthy immune system," she said. "Other beneficial nutrients include vitamins B6,

NUTRITION Page 5B

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More Texans are hospitalized for COVID-19 than at any other time during the pandemic

The previous high of nearly 10,900 was broken as more than 11,351 Texans with COVID-19 were hospitalized Monday.

DAN ROSENZWEIG-ZIFF
The Texas Tribune

The Texas Department of State Health Services reported Monday a pandemic high 11,351 hospitalizations from COVID-19.

This surpasses the previous all-time high of 10,893, which occurred on July 22.

The record comes in the midst of a holiday season public health experts worry could exacerbate the already rapidly spreading virus and following an increase in cas-

es weeks after Thanksgiving.

This hospital data does not account for people who are hospitalized but have not gotten a positive test, and DSHS says some hospitals may be missing from the daily counts. As of Monday, the state is also reporting 49 deaths from COVID-19, a lagging indicator of the extent of transmission rates, and more than 12,800 new confirmed COVID-19 cases. Reported cases may have appeared lower the last few days because some local

health departments did not report data to the state over the holiday week.

Earlier this month, Texas' ICU capacity was already the lowest since the start of the pandemic, leaving health care experts worried hospitals could be pushed to the brink as coronavirus cases continue to climb. Across the state, COVID-19 patients occupy 17.8% of the state's hospital beds, and only 745 staffed ICU beds are still available.

At a press conference Monday, Mark Escott, Austin's interim medical director and health authority, said that this week alone, "ICU utilization" is up 62% in Travis County and that hospital beds could become scarce in a matter of weeks.

"Our projections forward into the new year continue to look worse and worse day after day," Escott said. "I think right now it appears we're going to enter 2021 in a state of emergency."

Meanwhile, health care workers at big and small hospitals have started receiving the vaccine across the state, calling it a "shot of hope" and a "light at the end of the tunnel." Still, many Texans are wary of receiving the Pfizer and Moderna vaccines, both of which have received emergency FDA approval after data showed they were each about 95% effective. And Texas has not yet detailed how or when jails and prisons, known hot spots of the coronavirus' spread, will receive the vaccine.

Inmate who survived execution dies; COVID suspected

COLUMBUS, Ohio — An Ohio death row inmate who survived an attempt to execute him by lethal injection in 2009 died Monday of possible complications of COVID-19, the state prisons system told the Associated Press.



Romell Broom

According to AP, at the time of the 2009 procedure, condemned prisoner Romell Broom was only the second inmate nationally to survive an execution after they began in modern times.

Broom, 64, has been placed on the "COVID probable list" maintained by the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction, spokesperson Sara French said Tuesday. Inmates on that list are suspected to have died of COVID-19, pending a death certificate, she said.

The state says 124 inmates have died from confirmed or probable cases of the coronavirus. One death row inmate currently has a positive COVID-19 test, and 55 death row inmates tested positive and then recovered, French said.

Ohio unsuccessfully tried to put Broom, then age 53, to death by lethal injection on Sept. 15, 2009. The execution was called off after two hours when technicians could not find a suitable vein, and Broom cried in pain while receiving 18 needle sticks.

Broom was returned to death row, where he fought

to choose a new method. In 2015, the execution team began working on Broom, in a holding cell 17 steps from the execution chamber, at about 2 p.m., four hours after his execution's originally scheduled time due to a final federal appeals request.

Broom even assisted his executioners by trying to help them find veins. When his help made no difference, he turned onto his back and covered his face with his hands. His torso heaved and his feet shook. He wiped his eyes and was handed a roll of toilet paper, which he used to wipe his brow.

When the technicians tried to use a vein in his leg, he grimaced, and a member of the execution team patted him on the back.

Since the introduction of the electric chair, other death row inmates in the U.S. survived the first attempts to execute them after the process began.

— May 3, 1946: The execu-

tion of Willie Francis, 17, was called off after an improperly prepared electric chair failed to work in Louisiana. Francis was sentenced to die for the murder of St. Martinville, Louisiana, druggist Andrew Thomas, who once employed Francis. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 5-4 to allow a second execution to proceed, rejecting double jeopardy arguments. Louisiana successfully executed the 18-year-old Francis by electric chair on May 9, 1947.

— Feb. 22, 2018: The Alabama execution of Doyle Lee Hamm, 61, who had battled lymphoma, was called off about 2 1/2 hours after the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the execution to proceed after prison officials announced they were halting the procedure because medical staff did not think they could obtain "the appropriate venous access" before a midnight deadline. Hamm was sentenced to die for the 1987 slaying of motel clerk Patrick Cunningham.

romell Broom unsuccessfully to avoid a second execution. His most recent execution date was in June, but in the spring Republican Gov. Mike DeWine issued a reprieve and set a new date in March 2022.

His attorneys filed arguments with the U.S. Supreme Court that he should be spared a second attempt.

Broom survived the 2009 execution "only to live with the ever-increasing fear and distress that the same process would be used on him at his next execution date," attorneys Timothy Sweeney and Adele Shank said in a statement.

"Let his passing in this way, and not in the execution chamber, be the final word on whether a second attempt should ever have been considered," they said.

Broom was sentenced to die for raping and killing 14-year-old Tryna Middleton after abducting her in Cleveland in 1984 as she walked home from a football game with two friends.

Ohio is now under a de facto death penalty moratorium as DeWine has said lethal injection is no longer an option because of the state's inability to find drugs. He says lawmakers would have

to choose a new method.

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Case No: A200509-D
 Styled: In the Interest of Diana Marie Whitson, A Child
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
THE STATE OF TEXAS

To: KEVIN WAYNE WHITSON., 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 twenty days after you were served this citation and petition, a default judgement may be taken against you. The petition of VICTORIA BUCHANAN and KEVIN L. BUCHANAN II, Petitioners, was filed in the County Court At 128th Judicial District Court of Orange County, Texas on August 18, 2020, against ANGELA DEAN WHITSON and KEVIN WAYNE WHITSON, numbered A200509-D and entitled "In the Interest of DIANA MARIE WHITSON, a child." The suit requests the Termination of the parental rights and granting of the adoption of a child. The date and place of birth of the child/ren who is/are subject of the suit:

Name of Child	Date of Birth	Place of Birth
DIANA MARIE WHITSON	07/17/2018	Beaumont, Texas

The court has authority in this suit to render an order in the child's interest that will be binding 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 the Court at Orange, Texas, on September 30th, 2020.

Vickie Edgerly
 Clerk of the District Court of Orange County, Texas
 By *Vickie Edgerly*
 Vickie Edgerly, District Clerk
 Orange County, Texas

SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

On October 19, 2020, Entergy Texas, Inc. ("ETI") filed an application to amend its Transmission Cost Recovery Factor ("TCRF") with the Public Utility Commission of Texas ("Commission" or "PUC"). The application was assigned PUC Docket No. 51406. The proposed TCRF is requested in accordance with the Public Utility Regulatory Act § 36.209 and 16 TAC § 25.239. A TCRF allows a utility to recover its reasonable and necessary costs that have occurred since the end of the test year in the utility's last base rate case for transmission infrastructure improvement and changes in wholesale transmission charges to the electric utility under a tariff approved by a federal regulatory authority. In its requested amendment, ETI is seeking recovery of costs for transmission capital investments it incurred from July 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020. ETI also seeks to recover approved transmission charges that are not otherwise being recovered through rates.

The proposed TCRF as amended would result in total TCRF retail revenues of approximately \$51.0 million, which is \$31.6 million in incremental annual TCRF revenue beyond ETI's currently effective TCRF. This \$31.6 million amount would be a 3.3% increase in ETI's annualized non-fuel revenue requirement as compared to revenues approved in Docket No. 48371, ETI's most recent base rate case, and a 2.1% increase in ETI's overall annualized revenue requirement including fuel costs as compared to such revenues as approved in Docket No. 48371. The impact of the rate change on various customer classes will vary from the overall impact described in this notice.

The effective date of the proposed rate change would be the date that a Commission order adopting the proposed TCRF is issued. ETI has requested that, if no hearing is requested, the Commission adopt an order approving the proposed TCRF at or before its currently-scheduled open meeting on February 25, 2021. All customers in ETI's Texas retail rate classes are affected by this request.

Persons with questions or who want more information on this filing may contact ETI at Entergy Texas, Inc., Attn: Customer Service—2020 TCRF Case, 350 Pine Street, Beaumont, Texas 77701, or call 1-866-981-2602 during normal business hours. A complete copy of this application is available for inspection at the address listed above.

The Commission has assigned Docket No. 51406 to this proceeding. Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings should notify the Public Utility Commission of Texas (commission) as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326.

Further information may also be obtained by calling the Public Utility Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing- and speech- impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the commission at (512) 936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the application was filed with the commission. However, ETI has requested that the deadline be extended to January 19, 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the preferred method for you to file your request for intervention is electronically, and you will be required to serve the request on other parties by email. Therefore, please include your own email address on the intervention request. Instructions for electronic filing via the "PUC Filer" on the Commission's website can be found here: <https://interchange.puc.texas.gov/filer>. Instructions for using the PUC Filer are available at: http://www.puc.texas.gov/industry/filings/New_PUC_Web_Filer_Presentation.pdf. Once you obtain a tracking sheet associated with your filing from the PUC Filer, you may email the tracking sheet and the document you wish to file to: centralrecords@puc.texas.gov. For assistance with your electronic filing, please contact the Commission's Help Desk at (512) 936-7100 or helpdesk@puc.texas.gov. You can review materials filed in this docket on the PUC Interchange at: <http://interchange.puc.texas.gov/>.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **JAMES M. McCLELLAND**, Deceased, were issued on the **DECEMBER 21, 2020**, Cause No. **P18883**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **VINCENT CRAIG McCLELLAND**.

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: Tommy Gunn
 Attorney at Law
 202 S. Border Street
 Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 29th day of December, 2020.

Tommy Gunn

Tommy Gunn
 Attorney for:
 Vincent Craig McClelland
 State Bar No.: 08623700 202 S. Border Street Orange, TX 77630
 Phone: (409)882-9990
 Fax: (409)882-0613
 Email:tommy@gunn-law.org

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **ROSEMARY V. McCLELLAND**, Deceased, were issued on the **DECEMBER 21, 2020**, Cause No. **P18884**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **VINCENT CRAIG McCLELLAND**.

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: Tommy Gunn
 Attorney at Law
 202 S. Border Street
 Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 29th day of December, 2020.

Tommy Gunn

Tommy Gunn
 Attorney for:
 Vincent Craig McClelland
 State Bar No.: 08623700 202 S. Border Street Orange, TX 77630
 Phone: (409)882-9990
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

AA meetings are being offered on Tuesday (open) and Thursday (closed) mornings at 9:30 am at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, located at 945 W. Roundbunch Road, Bridge City. Join us for coffee & donuts at the perfect meeting for imperfect people. For more information, please call, text at 409-221-0704 or email lolabell.102360@gmail.com.

Al-Anon can help if someone close to you has a drinking problem. Al-Anon meets Sundays & Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m., North Orange Baptist

Church, 4775 N. 16th St. (Rear), Orange, TX 77632. Call Angela at 474-2171 or Jane at 409-670-2887 for more info. Calls are kept Confidential.

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

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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **DALE E. GILMORE**, Deceased, were issued on the **DECEMBER 21, 2020**, Cause No. **P18910**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **TANYA JOHNSTON MILLS**.

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: Tommy Gunn
 Attorney at Law
 202 S. Border Street
 Orange, TX 77630

Dated the 21st day of December, 2020.

Tommy Gunn

Tommy Gunn
 Attorney for:
 Tanya Johnston Mills
 State Bar No.: 08623700 202 S. Border Street Orange, TX 77630
 Phone: (409)882-9990
 Fax: (409)882-0613
 Email:tommy@gunn-law.org

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **CORNELIUS M C D O W E L L JENKINS**, Deceased, were issued on **OCTOBER 25, 2020**, in Cause No. **P18667**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **BRENDA HORTON**.

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 R. Dunaway
 Attorney at Law
 P.O. Box 100
 Orange, TX
 77631-0100

Dated the 25th day of October, 2020.

James R. Dunaway

James R. Dunaway
 Attorney for:
Brenda Horton
 State Bar No.: 06208000
 P.O. Box 100
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