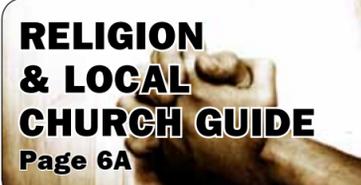




**Outdoors  
HUNTING &  
FISHING**  
Capt. Chuck Uzzle  
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**KAZ'S  
KORNER**  
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**RELIGION  
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# County Record

TheRecordLive.com

Vol. 61 No. 34

The Community Newspaper of Orange, Texas

Week of Wednesday, January 20, 2021

## Grant allows Drainage District bayou cleanups



Brad Childs, Orange city councilman, looks at fallen trees and vegetation hanging over Adams Bayou during a tour Monday of damage done by Hurricanes Laura and Delta.

**DAVE ROGERS**  
For The Record

The Orange County Drainage District has some good news for Orange homeowners along the Cow Bayou, Adams Bayou and Little Cypress Bayou.

Don Carona, general manager of the Drainage District, announced Tuesday that the Natural Resources Conser-

tractor-pulled hayride tour of the damage done last August by Laura and made worse by October by Hurricane Delta. Both storms packed winds clocked in excess of 100 mph in the county.

Among those who went

along were Orange city council members Paul Burch and Brad Child. Other invited officials were unavailable due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

What Clary showed them were thickets of small trees blown down and lodged be-

tween still-standing trees.

The homeowner pointed out that the bayou was full of fallen trees or those leaning from the bank and blocking the flow downstream.

"We live too close to the Gulf of Mexico not to have any drainage," Clary said. "If

the water can't go anywhere, it's going to your living room. "It went in mine."

Clary would like to see a cleanup effort that would remove all the downed timber on either side of the levee

DRAINAGE Page 3A

## LC Elementary gets \$4K grant from Walmart



Little Cypress Elementary School recently was the recipient of a \$4,000 Walmart Community grant. The grant was written by music teacher Josh Leger for the campus. According to LCE Principal Kayla Casey the funds may be used for school communication on the prekindergarten through third grade campus. If there are funds left from the larger project, the remainder would be used to purchase "Skoogs," a tactile musical instrument that allows students with various challenges to take part in a range of music-making activities.

Hal Biskey, Manager of the West Orange Walmart, said it is important to him that the funds given by his store go to organizations in the community that are served by the local Walmart.

PHOTO ABOVE: LCE Principal Kayla Casey, West Orange Walmart Manager Hal Biskey and LCE Music Teacher Josh Leger.

## Ex-mayor's son seeks BC council

**DAVE ROGERS**  
For The Record

Expect a familiar name on the May 1 ballot for the City of Bridge City.

Aaron Roccaforte, 38-year-old son of former BC mayor and longtime city council fixture Kurt Roccaforte, has filed to run for Place 1 on the city council.

"I've been around it [city council] all my life, and I really feel like I can be an asset for the city," says the younger Roccaforte.

"I really think I could possibly make a difference and help some people out."

Aaron Roccaforte, a 2000 graduate of Bridge City High School, has taken over his family's garage, Bridge City Radiator and Automotive Repair, since Kurt Roccaforte retired from BC council and auto shop owner to become Orange County's Precinct 3 Commissioner.

"I think dad started on city council in 1992 and was mayor for 10 years - five two-year terms (2006-16), but this is my first time to actually run for an elected position."

Aaron Roccaforte has been chairman of Bridge City's Zoning Board of Adjustment the past four years. He has lived his entire life in Bridge City and has worked in the family auto repair biz since he was 16.

Roccaforte has a son, Trent Roccaforte, who graduated from Bridge City High School in 2020.

Kirk Roccaforte was



Aaron Roccaforte

Bridge City mayor during the devastating Hurricane Ike in 2008 that pushed a 13-foot storm surge that flooded 99 percent of all homes. His work in leading the recovery kept him mayor until term limits forced him to step away in 2016.

He rejoined the BC council the next year.

Registration for the May 1 city and schools election began Jan. 13 and ends Feb. 12.

In Bridge City, Places 1, 3 and 5 will be on the ballot. Carl Harbert, Tammi Fiset and Terri Gauthier are the incumbents.

According to City Secretary Jeanie McDowell, Fiset and Gauthier have filed for reelection but Harbert had not as of Tuesday evening. Also, John Nickum filed to oppose Fiset for Place 3.

T.W. Permenter has filed to stay on as mayor of Pinehurst, but the position is only up for a one-year term as Permenter was a mid-term replacement for the late

UPCOMING Page 3A

## Rollout of Covid vaccine tough to swallow

**DAVE ROGERS**  
For The Record

Waldo's got nothing on Covid-19 vaccinations when it comes to being hard to find in Orange County.

If you looked fast, the county was supposed to get 100 vaccines at each of four pharmacies this week - Kroger's and Walgreens on 16th Street in Orange, the Main Street Brookshire Brothers in Vidor, and the Bridge City Walmart.

The state has set up about 75 vaccine hubs, including one in Chambers County, two in Galveston County, one at the Jasper-Newton Health Department and another at the Jefferson County Health Department near the Jack Brooks Regional Airport in Mid-County.

Stories of people "jumping the line" and being vaccinated before it was "their turn" began appearing the first day vaccines were given in the

United States.

Recently, it was disclosed that the Austin health director had ignored state guidelines and was vaccinating some lawmakers in town for the every-other-year meeting of the Texas Legislature.

House Speaker Dade Phelan of Beaumont was among those who announced he'd wait until all others in groups ahead of his 45-and-healthy age group had been vaccinated.

Meanwhile, Beaumont's other state rep, Democrat Joe Deshotel, tested positive for Covid-19 after a view days of the session.

It's hard, however, to find out what is the proper order.

According to the state's Department of State Health Services, healthcare workers, nursing homes, school nurses and "last responders" (undertakers) were top priority for the vaccine, followed by people over 65 and people between 16-65 with medical

conditions that put them at greater risk are next.

There's no mention of police officers, Sheriff's departments or fire departments.

But Orange County Judge John Gothia and Joel Ardoin, the county's emergency management coordinator, both cite (and circulate on the county's emergency management department Facebook page) a different set of priorities.

It calls for healthcare workers to be followed in the vaccination line by law enforcement personnel, full-time and volunteer firemen and school teachers and other educational workers ahead of people in nursing homes, adults 65+ and others with dangerous medical conditions.

Ardoin said that list cited by county officials comes from a group called SE-TRAC, the Southeast Texas Regional Advisory Council. According to CEO Darrell

Pile, the Houston-based SE-TRAC is over Trauma Service Area R, the nine-county area to which Orange County was assigned by the state.

"During a disaster like Covid, my organization, SE-TRAC, steps in and helps lead things in your area," he said.

Pile didn't seem familiar with Ardoin's list. He referred a caller to the DSHS website, regarding Phase 1B vaccine allocation.

It says: "COVID-19 has the most severe effects on people who are 65 years and older and individuals with comorbidities. Protecting these higher-risk individuals is of the utmost concern. Preventing the disease among people who have these risk factors will dramatically reduce the number of Texans who die from the disease and relieve pressure on the healthcare system by reducing hospital and ICU admissions."



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# My 5-Cents...

## By State Senator Robert Nichols

The Legislature has ended its first week of session. Due to the ongoing pandemic, the Senate has decided to recess until January 26th. However, we will still be working hard in the meantime on legislation for Senate District 3.

Here are five things happening around your state:

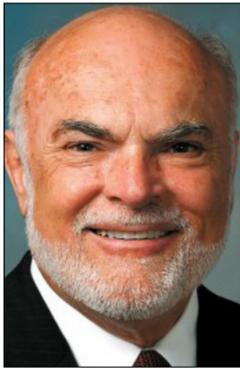
### 1. The Texas Legislature begins the 87th Legislative Session

This week, the 87th legislature gavelled in for session. Though opening day looked a bit different than usual, with fewer guests in the gallery, on the floor, and throughout the building, we're excited to start the important work on behalf of Senate District 3.

The Texas Senate also decided on the rules that will govern the chamber for at least the first 60 days. There are several changes due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. COVID-19 precautions include mandatory testing for anyone going onto the floor of the senate or to a committee hearing and twice weekly testing for all staff. The Senate also changed the number of votes required to bring a bill up for a vote on the floor. Instead of requiring 3/5ths of the membership to bring a bill up, the body will now require 5/9ths of the members to vote to bring up a bill.

### 2. Texas was the top corporate move destination in 2020

Texas ranked number one in corporate relocations last year, according to Allied Van Lines, a major moving firm. Houston and Austin were the top two cities in Texas that businesses were relocating to. The top locations businesses were coming from were California, Chicago, Phoenix, and Washington, DC. Some major companies that recently moved their headquarters to Texas include Oracle, Hewlett Packard, and CBRE. Texas' business-friendly climate is one reason many companies cited for their moves and I hope to



Sen. Robert Nichols

see that continue.

### 3. Timeline for Session

As the Texas Constitution requires, the legislature has convened for the next 140 days. The reason we meet every other year is because the framers of our state constitution envisioned a citizen legislature that could not infringe too much on citizens' lives by meeting more frequently.

Though many years have passed since our founding, our framers vision lives on.

Several provisions in our state constitution are related to ensuring we value the time we are given to legislate and focus our attention on only the most pressing issues. One such provision is that no legislation can be fully passed in the first 60 days of session. The only exception is if the

Governor designates a specific bill as emergency legislation. If there's a piece of legislation you feel strongly about, please be sure to contact us. Our office phone number is (512) 463-0103.

Here are some important dates to keep in mind as we move through session:

March 12th – This is the last day bills can be filed in the House and Senate.

May 31st – This is the last day of regular session, which also happens to be Memorial Day.

June 20th – This is the last day the Governor can sign or veto bills passed during the regular legislative session.

### 4. Vaccine Hubs and vaccine rollout

The Department of State Health Services has announced 28 vaccination hubs that are meant to streamline a large-scale vaccination effort currently being undertaken by the state. These vaccination hubs will have the capability to vaccinate 100,000 people.

The state is set to receive almost 200,000 doses of the vaccine. A little over 158,000 doses of the vaccine will go to these hubs, the other roughly 38,000 doses will go to providers across the state. Currently, the hubs are prioritizing frontline healthcare workers, people who are 65 and older, and those with certain health conditions. The state of Texas has vaccinated more people than any other state in the nation and will begin receiving a larger allotment of doses starting in February. For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine and vaccine provider information please visit <https://tdem.texas.gov/covid-19/>.

### 5. Comptroller announces the Biennial Revenue Estimate

The Comptroller has released his Biennial Revenue Estimate. The BRE projects an estimate of the state's revenue over the next two years. The BRE projected that the state will have \$112.5 billion available for general-purpose spending. That's down 0.4% from the last biennium. It also outlined the closing balance of the last two-year budget. While the coronavirus pandemic took a toll on our economy, the impact was not as severe as originally thought. The ending balance for the 2020-2021 balance will be close to a negative \$1 billion.

### Daughters of the American Revolution meetings

The Daughters of the American Revolution William Diamond Chapter of Orange County meets the third Tuesday of the month at St. Paul Methodist Church in Bridge City at 1:00 p.m. Any woman who can establish a direct family line to a patriot in the American Revolution can join. The Daughters of the American Revolution promotes Patriotism, Education and Historical Preservation. We had members that can help you find your Patriot. If you need any questions answered you can call Jackie Hucakbay, Regent @ 409-719-6478 or Registrar, Katy Latiolais @ 409-720-9834.

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## Drainage District bayou cleanups From Page 1

road. The Drainage District and its contractors will only be able to pick up trees within reach of a grapple arm mounted on barge in the bayou.

A similar \$1 million "desnagging" effort that trimmed overhanging vegetation and pulled up and out trees that were leaning at least 45 degrees toward the water was performed by the Drainage District on Adams Bayou 18 months ago.

"After Hurricane Harvey, money we received from the NRCS helped fund the removal of fallen trees and vegetative debris from Adams Bayou and Cow Bayou," Carona said.

"After Laura, it's hard to believe but we're back at it again. There are a significant amount of trees fallen in the bayous."

Clary wants more than just clearing the banks.

"Calling it desnagging got me off their case," Clary said of the Drainage District. "But that bayou needs to be dug out



Tom Clary, North Orange homeowner, explains Monday how he believes trees downed by the winds of Hurricane Laura, are adding to flooding hazards along Adams Bayou.

Clary says he'd like to see a thorough cleanup of the waterways that eventually drain through lower Orange County and into the Bessie Heights Marsh or Sabine Lake.

Then he'd like to see a regular bayou maintenance program.

That includes dredging, which he says hasn't happened for Adams Bayou since

1959.

"From 1934 to 59, you wouldn't believe all the dredging they've done here," Clary said, citing research he'd done in newspaper ar-

chives.

Carona, the Drainage District GM, says federal and state wildlife and environmental rules affect every project these days.

He said they are not allowed to take a tree from the bayou banks unless it is leaning at least to a 45-degree angle. And work in Bessie Heights Marsh falls under the rules of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

"They regulate wildlife, and an operation like this may affect wildlife, including birds and their nesting grounds."

Good news about the bayou project is it has a deadline, just nine months to complete the work. And the clock is already running, Carona said.

"While we're in the regulatory process, we'll begin the process to solicit outside contractors," he said. "We're going to get a barge with a grapple and saw on it."

The Drainage District must front the cost of the project and be reimbursed for 75 percent of it by NRCS. The 25 percent or \$500,000 will be paid out of Drainage

District reserves.

Orange County citizens pay 13.67 cents per \$100 property value to the Drainage District, raising \$8.3 million in annual revenue for the 60-employee utility that manages Orange County's waterflow.

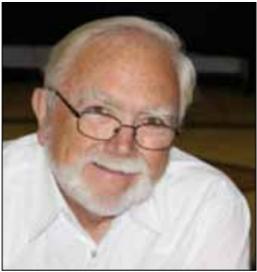
Another project in the works for the Drainage Ditch, in a joint venture with the Sabine River Authority, Jasper, Newton and Orange counties, is to enlarge and improve the Sabine Relief Ditch.

That ditch, which Carona says has been around since at least 1934, runs from just south of the northern Orange County line to the Sabine River near the intersection of Interstate 10 and 16th Street.

"The obvious reason why it was put in was to divert water to the Sabine River," Carona said. "In its current form it helps dramatically in portions of Mauriceville and other areas."

"We have applied for funds to improve and intercept and direct overflow to Cow Bayou. The design will include a pump station."

## Upcoming elections From Page 1



T.W. Permenter

Dan Mohon.

Another council seat in Pinehurst, that of Greg Willis, is up for a one-year term as well, while three incumbents, Joey Vance, Sarah McClendon and Michael Shahan, would be running for two-year terms. But only Permenter had filed for office as of Tuesday.

In the City of Orange, the

mayor's office and single-member Place 1 will be on May's ballot. Larry Spears Jr. has filed for reelection as mayor but Patrick Pullen, rehabbing after an accident, has not indicated his plans in Place 1.

West Orange councilman Randy Branch is running for reelection but mayor Roy McDonald and councilman Randy Dearing have not yet filed.

Little Cypress-Mauriceville schools will have Place 4 and Place 5 on the ballot for three-year terms. Tammy Rountree, incumbent in Place 4, has filed, but Place 5 incumbent Aubrey Milstead had not as of Tuesday.

Incumbents Patty Collins and Judy Cole have filed for reelection in the Bridge City school district.

## Abbott praises Texas Covid-19 vaccine rollout

Karen Brooks Harper  
The Texas Tribune

Gov. Greg Abbott on Tuesday said his health priorities for this year's legislative session include expanding telemedicine across the state, increasing services for those dealing with mental health issues, and making sure Texas has an adequate supply of personal protective equipment.

His public comments came after a meeting in Houston with state health leaders and the president and CEO of Houston Methodist Hospital to brief them on his priorities for Texas lawmakers, who returned to the Capitol last week.

Abbott also praised the state's vaccine rollout and the success of the large-scale

"vaccination hubs" he said were instrumental in speeding up the administration of the vaccine. Some 78% of the 1,725,575 doses already shipped to providers have been administered, including second doses, Abbott said.

"It's remarkable when you think about it," he said.

The hubs, of which there are nearly 80 across the state, allow Texas "to have several locations capable of vaccinating thousands of people at each of these locations," he said.

Houston Methodist, one of the vaccine hubs, has reported vaccinating 4,000 people in a single day, Abbott said.

The meeting at Houston Methodist Research Institute was private and initially did not include local public

health officials or elected officials, drawing the ire of Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner, who said in a week-end tweet that "any round table conversation in Houston about vaccine distribution in Houston, Harris County region should include diverse representation to ensure there is equitable vaccine distribution to at risk, vulnerable communities."

The meeting comes as Texas is set to receive 333,650 first doses of COVID-19 vaccine for 260 providers across the state, including nearly 80 hubs capable of focusing on large community vaccination efforts.

State officials are warning the COVID-19 pandemic is at its worst in Texas after 1,231 deaths were reported for the state in just three

days. Hospitals in the Abilene, Bryan-College Station and Laredo areas have also run out of intensive care unit beds.

Texas is outpacing other states in administering the vaccine, topping 1 million total doses last week. As of this weekend, the state had fully vaccinated, with both doses, nearly 180,000 people. Another 500,000 doses will be shipped to Texas for second doses, Abbott's office said.

Meanwhile, health officials on Tuesday warned Texans to continue social distancing and washing their hands, pointing out that the state's supply of vaccine is still far short of the more than 8 million people who are currently being prioritized.



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From The Creaux's Nest

### THE WAY I SEE IT

Well, its come down to inauguration day, January 20, 2021. It really seemed like it was a long time getting here. **Joseph R. Biden, Jr.** becomes the 46<sup>th</sup> **President of the United States.** Making history is **Kamala Harris**, the first **Black, South Asian and female** to serve as **Vice President.** She is the 49<sup>th</sup> **V.P.** Today is a great day for America. I relate it to the days when **Franklin D. Roosevelt** took over as president from a failed president **Hubert Hoover.** **President Biden** has 50 years in government service. No longer than four years ago, he put in the last of an eight year hitch as vice president. **Donald Trump** has changed America from what it was just four years ago. **Biden** has inherited a country with some huge problems. One thing we can all rest assured of is that **President Biden** will never knowingly do anything that will hurt the country. He's not any of the crazy things you might have heard. **Biden** is not a wild-eyed liberal, socialist, etc. At one time **Biden** was considered one of the most conservative democrats in the senate. Here's an example of where **Biden** is politically. He's a **centrist.** **George H. Bush, Gov. John Kasich** and **Biden** could all have **R's** or **D's** on their foreheads. I believe in time you'll see I'm right. The three, all centrist, always put the country first. I believe this is a great day for our country and I believe we have just the right person at the right time to lead the country out of a lot of bad problems. Already the boys at **FOX News** are not wanting to give him a chance. Over the past 50 years of writing a column I've been criticized, but no one has ever attacked the facts. Through all the years I've stuck to the true facts. If I reported it, I had the facts on my side. Usually when people criticized me it was because they didn't like the facts. I usually considered the source and depth of knowledge. If a **Trump Bubba** believed the "**Big Lie**" that the election was stolen from **Trump**, not me, not the facts, not anyone will change their minds. I quit trying a long time ago. I present the facts and let them fall where they will.\*\*\*\* **On a personal note**, over the last two weeks I have really been under the weather. I didn't believe I could hold my head up long enough to do this column. I don't have virus, that would be a killer, but I am really sick. In fact, I have waited a long time for the swearing in of the new president and I'll miss most of it because I'll be at the doctor's office. **Ain't that a kick.** Come along, I promise it won't do you no harm.

### TODAY PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN BETS ON FUTURE OF U.S.A.

**Joe Biden** campaigned as a rebuke to **President Donald Trump**, a singular figure whose political power was fueled by discord and grievance. The Democrat framed his election as one to "heal the soul" of the nation and repair the presidency, restoring the **White House** image as a symbol of stability and credibility. **Biden**, as such an institutionalist as **Trump** has been a disruptor, will look to change the tone and priorities of the office. "It really is about restoring some dignity to the office, about picking truth over lies, unity over division," **Biden** said soon after he launched his campaign. "It's about who we are." **Biden's** main task is going to be needed to reestablish the symbol of the **White House** to the world as a place of integrity and good governance. **Biden** is uniquely situated to do this, his whole life has been spent in Washington and he spent eight years watching the job up close. The changes will be sweeping, starting with the president's approach to the **COVID-19** pandemic that has claimed OVER 400,000 American lives. **Trump** flouted the virus, his staff worked largely without mask in the cramped **West Wing** offices while the president hosted "super-spreader" events at the **White House** and on the road. **Biden's** team has promised to restore daily news briefings and does not plan to refer to the press as "the enemy of the people." While **Trump** filled out much of his **Cabinet** and **White House** staff with relatives, political neophytes and newcomers to government, **Biden** has turned to seasoned hands, bringing in veterans and career officials. **Biden** also has as much work ahead repairing the image of the presidency overseas as he does on American shores. **Joe Biden**, who spent years on the **Senate Foreign Relations Committee** and has a vast foreign policy portfolio as vice president, has pledged a course correction. He has promised to repair alliances, rejoin the **Paris climate treaty** and the **World Health Organization** and has said he would shore up **U.S. national security** by first addressing health, economic and political crises at home.

### TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2011 CHARLIE IN BRONZE

Last week an eight-foot statue of **Charlie Wilson** was unveiled at the **Charles Wilson VA Outpatient Clinic in Lufkin.** The bronze statue sits on a three-foot base. **Charlie** was extremely proud of the **V.A. clinic.** He was completely devoted to veterans. His friend **Buddy Temple**, chairman of the **Temple Foundation**, helped raise \$50,000 for the construction of the statue. The bronze statue was created by 83-year-old **David Adickes.** He is known for massive art works, including the 67-foot tall **Sam Houston** statue on Hwy. 45 at Huntsville. He also has done two clay busts of **Wilson** just before **Charlie** died at age 76. At the unveiling, **Adickes**, who turned 84 this week said, "I

loved the guy." He has 43 **presidential** heads that he has sculptured, each one weighing 7,000 pounds. He bought the school in **Huntsville** he graduated from in 1943 and plans to have a museum and foundation for his art. What I remember most about **Charlie**, besides the personal things, is that he lived by his own rules, served us well in congress and was a champion for the poor and disenfranchised and his love for veterans. We will never see his likes again. If you are ever near **Lufkin**, visit his impressive statue at his **V.A. Clinic.**\*\*\*\*Former Louisiana governor **Edward Edwards** was released from prison after eight years. He will complete his sentence by home detention at a half-way house and will be monitored. He's 83 years old, what does he need monitoring from. He still maintains his innocence. His son was also convicted. **Edwards** said eight years ago, he would some day walk out. He did.\*\*\*\*When **Con. Kevin Brady** was in town last week he requested security. National and state office holders all over the country are spooked since the happenings in **Arizona.** Now state officials in **Austin** all want bodyguards. They all know the harsh tone and mean spirited dialog has done a lot of damage in shaping the political atmosphere but none have the balls to condemn it.\*\*\*\*In **Kiln, Mississippi**, **Brandi Farve**, 34, bonds out of jail after being caught in a **methamphetamine** bust. She was arraigned before her co-defendants because of the attention she drew. She's **Brett Farve's** sister and this is not her first brush with the law.\*\*\*\*By now I'm sure everyone knows that former **Orange Police Chief Sam Kittrell** has taken a job as district attorney **Steven Reis'** investigator in **Matagorda** county. We wish him the best. Sam will keep his home in **Orange.**\*\*\*\*We were sorry to hear about the death of **Pam Stelly's** twin sister, **Pat Kibbe**, 66, of **Groves.** She passed away Jan. 12.\*\*\*\*We send our condolences to the family of **Michael Miller**, age 16, who lost his life in an auto accident last week. Services were held Monday. His passenger **Chance Hogan**, 15, son of **Sgt. Chad Hogan**, is much improved and has left the hospital in **Lafayette.** **Chad** lost his brother last year in an auto accident.\*\*\*\*Thanks to **Capt. Chuck Uzzle**, who furnished the ducks, and to **Allen Dunn** for turning them into a delicious wild-game gumbo. That boy can cook. If anyone gets any extra fish, we sure could use a fish fry. (Editor's note: We didn't get any ducks from **Chuck.** First time in years.)\*\*\*\*Every year we get the sweetest oranges from **Don Breaux.** His tree must not have produced this year or his family is getting so big they consume them all. \*\*\*\*We understand **Bobby Cormier** is hopping but getting around pretty good since breaking his ankle. It was a close call in that tractor accident. \*\*\*\*Special birthdays this week go out to **Sandra Peveto** who adds another year to her age.\*\*\*\***Tyler Thompson**, who has had many baseball days in his young life, will be leaving his teen age years behind.\*\*\*\*Historian and our friend **Roy McDaniel** reaches his 86th on Jan. 25.\*\*\*\*Special Facebook friend **Capt. Janois Straus**, a nice lady, good friend who turns 45 on Jan. 20.\*\*\*\*Believe it or not, **David Cagle** turned 50 on Monday, Jan. 17. Just the other day it seems he was a teenager. (Editor's note: **David** has since passed away.)

### GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN Obituaries 10 Years Ago-2011

**Vicki Parfait**, known throughout Southeast Texas and Southeast Louisiana as an outstanding female radio personality and longtime writer for **The Record Newspapers** passed away Monday, Jan. 10. **Vicki** graduated from **French High School** in 1961 and joined the **United States Marine Corps.** She was a top rated radio personality on **KYKR, KOLE, KKMY, KQXY, KTRM, KTFA, KJAS** in Southeast Texas and other stations including **Houston** and **Louisiana.** She was survived by her children, **Dottie Britt, Carl O. Stucker III, Jessica Parfait, Christi Stucker Battenfield, Clay Stucker** and **Joshua Jude Stucker;** and six grandchildren.\*\*\*\* **Nancy "Sue" Venable**, 72, of **Orange**, passed away Jan. 16. Funeral services will be 2 p.m. on **Wednesday, Jan. 19.** Sue was a member of **Community Church** and had been a long time resident of **Orange.** She was survived by her husband of 25 years, **Douglas Venable;** daughter, **Jackie White;** son **Danny;** step-daughters **Liz Guess** and **Lisa Nelmes;** step-sons **Douglas Venable Jr., Charles Venable** and **Chris Venable.** She is also survived by nine grandchildren.\*\*\*\* **Jackie Trahan**, 46, passed away Sunday, Jan. 16. Services were held at 10 a.m., **Wednesday, Jan. 19.** He graduated from **Lamar University** and worked for **Xerox Corporation** for 26 years. **Jackie** is survived by his wife of 24 years, **Johna Trahan;** parents, **Jack** and **Cynthia Trahan;** son, **Alex Trahan** and daughter, **Emily Trahan;** sister, **Kelly Showers;** mother-in-law, **Verda Mae Barnes;** sister-in-laws, **Rhae Jones, Charlotte Jean Hamilton, Linda Oswald** and **Shelah Way.**

### 22 Years Ago-1999

The **Bridge City** community joined together last week, Jan. 11, for a special vigil to remember **Melissa Mesch** and **Katie Schassow.** The two 11-year-old friends were killed in an auto accident on Jan. 9, in front of **First Baptist Church on Roundbunch Road.** Several hundred people attended the vigil. Before the assembly was released for fellowship and counseling, **Pastors John Lockler** and **Pastor Lindsey Smith** spoke and led them in the **Lord's Prayer.** **Bridge City** superintendent **Sam Lucia** cited a similar tragedy that befell the community in 1966 with the death of **Charles Holton Johnson**, a **Bridge City** fifth grader, who was hit by a car on **Texas Ave.** on **Christmas Eve.** Fifth grade teachers at **Bridge City Intermediate School, Cindy Claybar** and **Josette Choate,** wrote the poem, "Reflections on **Melissa** and **Katie.**" Both services were held on Jan. 12, 1999. **Melissa** died at the scene, **Katie** died the next day at **St. Elizabeth Hospital.** We pray it will never happen again.) \*\*\*\*Ex-boxers from age 80 to 50 turn out for reunion at **Boilermakers Union Hall.** Two hundred former **Golden Gloves** fighters attended. **J.W. "Kid" Henry** organized the event. A few of the ex-boxers were **Paul Jorgenson**, **AAU** state champion, 1951-52, who later turned professional. **Dick Manchara, Paul Patin**, who was ranked 9th in the world in the 1971 pro-ranks, **Louisiana** state champ four years and **Texas** state champ in 1956. He retired in 1973 after 23 lightweight pro fights. Also attending were **Keble Free**, who fought from 1969-75 and had 66 fights winning 55, **George Easterling**, a **Golden Gloves** boxer in 1945 to 49, turned pro in 1950 and was **Texas** champion in 1948. It was a fun day. One of the area's most successful amateur boxer, **Dow Gene Anderson**, was trying to find someone who remembered the outdoor ring at **Joe Bailey's** on **Cow Bayou** where he started boxing at age seven. \*\*\*\***Bobby Menard**, 62, passed away. He leaves behind his wife **Janice;** daughters, **Donna** and **Lanie;** sons, **Dean, Glen** and **Neal;** and mother, **Ella Mae. Jan-**

**ice** is a longtime employee of **J.P. Court, Pct. 3,** under **Judge Flo Edgerly.** (Editor's note: Today **Judge Janice** is the **J.P.** of **Pct. 3** and was just sworn in for another term.)\*\*\*\***Bill Smith**, 53, longtime appliance salesman, died of a massive heart attack.\*\*\*\* **Joyce Young** lost her sister, **Gladys Duhon**, on Jan. 5.\*\*\*\*A retirement party will be held at the **City of Orange, Jan. 22,** for **James Foyle** and **Judy Davis.**\*\*\*\*County Deputy Sheriff **Jason Smalley** takes a bride, **Rebecca Cox**, on Dec. 19.\*\*\*\***Bridge City** star **Shane Dronett**, with the **Atlanta Falcons**, advances to playoffs with the teams 20-18 win over **Minn. Vikings.**\*\*\*\*SIDE NOTE: Forty-two years ago **Crip Trahan, Gus Foyle** and **Raymond Hubbard**, three good men, died in the same week.

### A FEW HAPPENINGS

Condolences to **Dickie, Jeep** and **Pauline Colburn Hargrove** and their families on the loss of their mother, **Billie Jean Whitaker Colburn**, age 93, who passed away January 17. Public viewing of the service will be available Monday, January 25, at 2:00 p.m., online through **Claybar Funeral Home's** Facebook page. **Ms. Billie** lived a great life and she and "**Dick**" raised some great children. Please see obituary.\*\*\*\* After fighting the long **COVID-19** battle, **Liz Bearden** was able to come home Tuesday afternoon. **Sharon** got cleared last week and is back to work. In fact, Monday he will try only the second case at the **Expo Center.** I believe they will use a split jury in different locations of the building. No spectators. **Liz** really had a bad case of the virus that attacked her lungs. Thank God she is home. There is no place like home.\*\*\*\*A few folks we know celebrating birthdays. On Jan. 2, **Coach Steve Griffith** celebrates.\*\*\*\***Jan. 23, Sandra Peveto, Rex** and **Eric's** mom celebrates her birthday.\*\*\*\*Our buddy next door, neighbor **Roy McDaniel**, turns what I believe is 97 years old, even though in one place I have him listed as 96. Anyway, he's a year older.\*\*\*\*Can you believe that on **Jan. 19, Dolly Parton** turned 74 and **Neil Diamond** will be 79 on **Jan. 24.**\*\*\*\*68 years ago on **Jan. 25, Joe Payne** and his lovely bride, **Deanice**, got married. **Happy 68th Anniversary** you two.\*\*\*\*A year ago, on **Jan. 26, Koby Bryant** and daughter **Gianna** and others were killed in an airplane crash.\*\*\*\*On **Wednesday, Vice President Kamala Harris** was sworn in by **U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor**, a history-making event in which the first **Black, South Asian** and **female** vice president will take her oath of office from the first **Latina** justice. This was the second time **Sotomayor** took part in an inauguration. She swore in **President-elect Joe Biden** as vice president in 2013.\*\*\*\***Tom Hanks** will host a 90-minute prime time special with remarks from **Joe Biden** and **Kamala Harris** **Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.** A few entertainers performing will be **Garth Brooks, Justin Timberlake, Jon Bon Jovi, Demi Lovato** and more.

### BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

Celebrating birthdays this week are **Melissa Berry, Beth Fisher, Sarah Bonda, Cris Anderson, Don Collins, Lyndon Robinson, Suzanne Pittard, Caitlyn Lindner, Jennifer Grizzaffi, Stephanie Smith, Sue Harris, Karen Anthony, Toni Robertson, Eric Shuford, Taylet Thompson, Chelsea Anderson, Hayden Anderson, Mike Faulk, Ginny Pelpier, Ron Huebel.**

### CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

**Pooldo Comeaux's** boy, **Clarence**, come in from da swamp at **Pecan Island** and got himself a job at da **Sunrise Motel**, in **Kaplan**, as da night clerk. Da first night he was there a lady call da switch board and say, "Look here, I got a leak in da batchtub me."

**Clarence** answer, "Mais Cher, dats ok, go ahead, you paid da rent."

Later dat night a man call and he say to **Clarence**, "Say fellow, me I got two rats fighting in da middle of da room."

**Clarence** answer, "Wat you expect for \$37, a bull fight." He didn't las long on da job.

### C'EST TOUT

TRUMP IS GONE--WHAT WILL HIS LEGACY BE

We have finally come to the end of four years of chaos and according to **Fact Checks** 30,354 lies. **Donald J. Trump's** legacy will probably be as the worst president ever. Besides the lies, a record he holds, that will never be broken, is the events of last week. No one can deny **Trump, Rudy, Donald Jr.** and others caused the storming of the capital by **Trump** supporters. Nothing like this has happened before in our country. This was a grotesque assault on the very place where democracy happens in our country and none of it should be minimized or excused. This day, **Jan. 6**, under **Trump's** watch, is one of the worst days in our nation's history. Also on **Trump's** watch and a big part of his legacy is that we now have surpassed over 400,000 deaths from a virus that **Trump** claimed was no worse than the flu. "We have 15 cases today and in a couple of days it will be zero." He than claimed **COVID-19** wasn't his responsibility and turned the problem over to 50 different state governors. Today, we have reached over 23 million **COVID** cases in the **United States.** Some **Trump** supporters have chosen to bury their heads in the sand and refuse to see the damage he has really done to this great country. **Donald J. Trump** is history now. The **Senate** will make a mistake if they don't convict him. The **Republican Party** will be the losers in the end. The last part of **Trump's** legacy will be that he is the only president twice impeached. **Trump** also faces the possibility of a criminal prosecution in **New York** for tax evasion and other charges. I believe some gray days lay ahead for the former president. Our country stands to be far better off without him in the **White House.** My guess is that his legacy, with all the chaos, will be that he was the very worst president in the history of this great country. None of the good and fair things **Trump** did outweighs the negatives.\*\*\*\*I've got to get out of here. Wear a mask, keep your distance, and don't go to our country. Take care and God bless.



# Deaths & Memorials

## Billie Jean Whitaker Colburn, 93, Orange

Billie Jean Whitaker Colburn, 93, of Orange, passed away peacefully on January 17, 2021.

Due to COVID restrictions, a private family celebration of life will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Orange. Public viewing of the service will be available Monday, January 25, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. online through Claybar Funeral Home's Facebook page or at [www.firstpresorange.com](http://www.firstpresorange.com)



of the "Life Membership Award," presented by the Women of the Church organization. Her unwavering faith in God was her strength, and she invested it in others. She loved unconditionally, prayed continuously, studied her Bible daily, and served joyfully.

Billie became a widow at only 48 years of age; however, she carried on with life and continued to learn, grow in her faith, and to encourage and serve others. Her passionate love for God and her family was extended to all who were open to receive it. It was inclusive rather than exclusive. With her steadfast belief that love is reflected in our actions, she showed respect for and genuine interest in all who crossed her path. Billie made every attempt to be present at the events, special occasions, games, and presentations of her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren to enjoy them and to show her love and support for them. Every moment was special and to be treasured, especially family time, which she loved.

Billie Jean Whitaker, the daughter of Paul and Pauline Simmons Whitaker, was born July 3, 1927, in Nacogdoches, Texas. During her high school years, her father left his barber shop business and moved his family to Orange for work in the shipyards to support America's wartime efforts. Following graduation, Billie worked for the City as a recreation director organizing entertainment and activities for the locals and troops who were stationed in Orange. It was there that she fell in love with the card game, Bridge. That love enabled her to become an excellent Bridge player, playing with numerous Bridge clubs for the rest of her life until health concerns and the pandemic became realities.

However, the greatest opportunity her job provided was for Billie to meet Richard "Dick" Edward Colburn, the love of her life, and she was the love of his. (And that was the end of the job.) They married and raised three children, Dickie, Jeep, and Pauline. Billie was the consummate homemaker, cleaning, cooking, managing the home, family life, and caring for her children, all while being beautifully groomed and dressed. She and her husband taught and modeled Christian principles and values for their children. They held themselves and their children accountable for following them.

Billie was always a school Room Mother and chaperone for field trips. She served as PTA President and in other leadership positions, and received the "Lifetime PTA Membership Award." She was the Cub Scout and Boy Scout Den Mother, the leader for the Bluebirds and Campfire Girls, and a Volunteer Red Cross Swimming Instructor for 20+ years.

As an active member of First Presbyterian Church for 74 years with a near perfect attendance, Billie served many years as a Sunday School and a Vacation Bible School teacher, Women of the Church Circle Leader, chairperson of numerous church committees, as a Deacon and as an Elder. She was also the recipient

and greatly appreciated by her family and all who knew her. She left a powerful legacy through the life she lived and modeled for all. She will be greatly missed, but we will continue to honor her by following the example she set to make the most of our lives and rejoice in our Lord always!

She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard "Dick" Edward Colburn, Sr.; sister, Colleen Kessler; and her parents, Paul and Pauline Whitaker.

She is survived by her three children, Dickie Colburn and wife Karen, Jeep Colburn and wife Carolyn, and Pauline Colburn Hargrove and husband Ricky, all of Orange; six grandchildren, J.J. Colburn and husband Vic Canales, Rafe Colburn and wife Patricia, April King and husband Trey, Kelly Beall and husband Gary, Jeannie Alexander and husband Bruce, and Terri Hoyland and husband Darren; and 11 great-grandchildren, Kyle Dischler and fiancé David Acosta, Kenedie (King) Beadle and husband Marty, Connor Alexander, Andrew Hoyland, Zachary Dischler, Jordan Alexander, Whitley Hoyland, Ricki King, Hunter Beall, Presley Alexander, and Cameron Dischler.

The family extends their sincere appreciation to caregivers Reina Atkinson, Maureen Bates, and the staff of Kindred Hospice.

## Glenda Lucille Finnell Whitley, 84, Orange

Glenda Lucille Finnell Whitley, 84, of Orange, passed away on January 12, 2021. A graveside service was held Saturday, January 16, 2021, at Orange Forest Lawn Cemetery in West Orange. Officiating will be Reverend Lani Rousseau. Born in Hartland, Kansas, on July 10, 1936, she was the daughter of Russell Dow Finnell and Ida Lucille (Holdeman) Finnell. Glenda passed away peacefully surrounded by her family. She moved to Orange with her parents when she was 5, was a graduate of Lutch Stark High School and a lifelong member of First United Methodist Church, Orange. She was married to Jean for almost 61 years.



her skills were beyond compare. When her girls were older she enjoyed her Antique Study Group. They enjoyed many trips, tours, and programs. Her memory was as sharp as an elephant's and her family referred to her as the original "google". We will miss her sweet and kind ways and her beautiful handwritten notes. The family would like to thank Dr. Garth Beinart and staff as well as the amazing health care workers in the Methodist health-care system.

She worked as a secretary at the Orange Camp Fire Girls office, was a Sunday school teacher, and a CFG leader for many years. Her main focus was taking care of her family, which she did in the most loving and caring way. She was always available no matter their needs. Glenda loved to cook and was a talented seamstress. She made most of her girls' clothes, and

Memorial Donations may be made to First United Methodist Church, Orange or the American Cancer Society. She was preceded in death by her parents, Russell and Ida Finnell; and sister, Virginia "Ginny" Green. She is survived by her loving husband, Jean Whitley; children, Cynthia Whitley Osborn and husband Roy and Jennifer Whitley Harrison and husband Jeff; grandchild, Elizabeth Whitley Harrison; and sister, Florence Evans; along with many nieces and nephews.

## Mildred "Sissy" Mallett Hebert, 86, Orange

Mildred "Sissy" Mallett Hebert, 86, of Orange, passed away on January 14, 2021, at her home. Funeral services were held Saturday, January 16, 2021, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Officiating was Mr. Tony Goins. Burial was at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange. Born in Jasper, Texas, on November 23, 1934, she was the daughter of Wiley Adams and Edna (Choate) Adams. Sissy served her Lord faithfully and taught Sunday School classes at the Church of Christ for many years. She was a wonderful person through and through and enjoyed being surrounded by her loved ones. Sissy loved baking and was a talented



cook. She will be deeply missed by all those who came to know and love her. She was preceded in death by her parents, Wiley and Edna Adams; son, Gary Sheffield; brother, Raymond Adams; and sister Mary Alice Masengil. She is survived by her loving husband, Ralph Hebert; children, Kathy Solly and Vickie Simon and husband Edward; grandchildren, Karla Ward, Kasey Jones, Misty Smith and Chad Simon; 8 great-grandchildren; 5 great-great-grandchild; and sister, Evelyn Zeigler. Serving as pallbearers will be Edward Simon, Chad Simon, Tim Ward, Tirrell Jones, and Joshua Wright.

## Master Gardeners Online Certification Class

The Orange County Master Gardeners in conjunction with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be offering online classes for Texas Master Gardener Certification. Deadline for enrolling is Thursday, Jan 21. Classes will start Thursday, Jan. 28 from 9AM - 1PM running each Thursday thru Thursday April 1. All classes will be virtual.

Fee for the class is \$150 which will included your 464 page colored handbook, fees and supplies. Email [ocmg1990@gmail.com](mailto:ocmg1990@gmail.com) for your application or more information or you can visit our website <https://txmg.org/orange> Join MG or Become a Member page. Applications are on our website.

## Linda Kay Crump, 76, Orange

Linda Kay Crump, 76, of Orange, passed away on January 13, 2021, at her home. Funeral services were held Monday, January 18, 2021, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Officiating was Pastor Loyd Thurman. Burial followed at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens in Orange. Born in Orange, Texas, on December 25, 1944, she was the daughter of William "Bill" Payne and Laverne (Courtney) Payne. Linda was a talented pianist, learning to play at the ripe age of 5 years old. Throughout the years she shared her talent and passion for piano with many children and played piano for her church.



She worked for Goodrich as a plant manager secretary. Linda will be dearly missed by all those she touched in her time on the Earth. She was preceded in death by her parents, Bill and Laverne Payne; brother, Wayland Payne; and sister, Colleen Cumbie. She is survived by her loving husband of over 52 years, James Wesley Crump; children, Bonnie Yarbro and wife Kelly of Midland and Paul Crump and wife Olga of Montgomery; grandchildren, Carlos, Daniel, Chasani, and Hannah; and great-grandchildren, Christian and Brielle.

## Louise Rae Wood, 86, Orange

Louise Rae Wood, 86, of Orange, passed away on January 13, 2021, in Beaumont. Born in DeRidder, Louisiana, on March 24, 1934, she was the daughter of Leo Ladner and Winnie (Prather) Ladner. Louise was a longtime member of 2nd Baptist Church in Bridge City where she faithfully served her Lord. She was a master gardener and loved to tend to her roses. Louise had a special place in her heart for her fur-baby, Little Bit. She was an excellent homemaker and a wonderful cook. Louise often enjoyed visiting her loved ones in Louisiana, and spending time catching up with them. She will be missed by all those who loved her. She was preceded in death by her parents, Leo and Winnie Ladner; husband, Melvin Wood;



son, Ben Cole; and daughter-in-law, Stephanie Cole. She is survived by her significant other, Carl Busby; children, Danny Cole of Bridge City, Linda Watz and husband James of Little Cypress; daughter-in-law, Martha Cole of San Antonio; grandchildren, Michael Cole and wife Shanin, Rebecca Cole, Tifanie Baltazar and husband Joe, Misti Freeman and husband Greg, Dusty Cole and wife Tonya, and Stacy Breaux and husband Dale; great-grandchildren, Bryce Rambo, Espyn Burks, Jordyn Burks, McKenzie Freeman, Shane Cole, Parker Freeman, Evan Cole, Shaylee Watz and Falcon Cole; and siblings, Dorothy Hines, Bertha M. Bailey, Marjorie Cole; along with numerous nieces and nephews

## Free Diabetes Classes Offered By AgriLife OC

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension of Orange County will be holding free Do Well Be Well with Diabetes classes. Join us in learning how to prevent and control your type 2 diabetes, eat healthy and much more to control your diabetes. The series will last for 5 weeks (on Mondays) starting on March 1st

and end on March 29th and will be from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. They will be held at the Extension office in the Orange County Convention and Expo Center. To get the full educational benefit, you need to attend all 5 classes if possible. Call 409-882-7010 to sign-up for this series.

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- Biventricular Pacemaker
- AICD (Automatic Implantable Pacemaker Defibrillator)



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## "Everybody Reads The Record" IN PRINT & ONLINE



Little Cypress Junior High School Band Director Daniel Wilhelm announced the names of LCJH students who earned chairs in the recent Texas Music Educators Association (TMEa) All Region Band competition. They are, front row from left - Kyndall Davis, Franklin Ortiz, Elias Jureidini, Rylee Lofton and Cheyenne Powell. Not pictured - Isabella Ibarra, flute.



The LCM cheerleaders competed at the UIL State Spirit Competition in Fort Worth on Friday. The LCM cheerleaders placed 8th in the state in the 4-A Division out of 61 4-A teams from across Texas. They placed 4th in the final round in the Crowd Leading Cheer Division. Squad members are, bottom row from left, senior Head Cheerleader Reese Cricchio, senior Crystal Malone, senior Head Cheerleader Allyson Campbell and senior Saylor Dronett. The middle row includes sophomore Kimberly Goddard, freshman Abby Beatty, freshman Sophia Harrison, junior Alyssa Herndon, junior Rylea Tipton, junior Kaleigh Belden, junior Ashlynn Wilson and sophomore Paige Brown. On the top row are freshman Autumn Newcomb, freshman Keely Parsons, freshman Chloe Wells, freshman Brooklyn Elliott, sophomore Hannah Lemons, junior Conner Trawhion, freshman Marissa Vaught and sophomore Bailee Rogers. Cheer coaches are Brandy Cricchio and Carlie Fuets.

## ORANGE COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY STRONG IN FAITH

**Pastor Charles Empey**  
Columnist  
For The Record

In the times we are living, this devotional by Charles H. Spurgeon from his Morning & Evening Devotional, Page 158, is extremely profitable to every Christian.

“Strong in faith” —Romans 4:20

Christian, take good care of your faith; for regathering faith is the only way whereby you can obtain blessings. If we want blessings from God, nothing can fetch them down but faith. Prayer cannot draw down answers from God's throne except it be the earnest prayer of the man who believes. Faith is the angelic messenger between the soul and the Lord Jesus in glory. Let that angel be withdrawn, we can neither send up prayer, nor receive the answers. Faith is the telegraphic wire which links earth and



**Pastor Charles Empey**

heaven — on which God's messages of love fly so fast, that before we call He answers, and while we are yet speaking He hears us. But if the telegraphic wire of faith be snapped, how can we receive the promise? Am I in trouble? — I can obtain help for trouble by faith. Am I beaten about by the enemy? — my soul on her dear Refuge leans by faith. But take faith away — in vain I call to God. There is no road between my soul and heaven.

In the deepest wintertime faith is a road on which the horses of prayer may travel — yes, and all the better for the biting frost; but blockade the road, and how can we communicate with the Great King? Faith lines me with divinity. Faith clothes me with the power of God. Faith engages on my side the omnipotence of Jehovah. Faith ensures every attribute of God in my defense. It helps me to defy the hosts of hell. It makes me march triumphant over the necks of my enemies. But without faith how can I receive anything of the Lord? Let not him that waverers — who is like a wave of the Sea — expect that he will receive anything of God! O, then, Christian, watch well your faith; for with it you can win all things, however poor you are, but without it you can obtain nothing. “If you can believe, all things are possible to him that be-

lieves.”

Everything you can see or hear with our physical eyes and ears and touch are daily fading away and will be gone. We cannot trust them. Unless there is someone beyond what we can see, touch and hear on earth, we are bound to the destiny of it all. It all comes to an end at one point or another and usually quicker than we planned. So, we must have something beyond this world that is not affected by change on earth. Malachi 3:6 says “I am the Lord, I do not change.”

If our faith in times like this is not in Him, relying on Him for the perfect outcome for me, for you, than we will fear and our physical, emotional and mental condition will grow worse. Fear is a liar. We have a bigger God, our Savior, than fear and Covid-19.

Read Spurgeon's devotional a couple more times and if

you are a Christian, you will experience a peace that passes all understanding. Read: Phil. 4:6,7,13. *Charles Empey is the Pastor of Cove Baptist Church, Orange, TX.*

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# Can Super Bowl be Tampa Bay's home game?

**KAZ'S KORNER**  
**JOE KAZMAR**  
For The Record



JOE KAZMAR

I predicted in last week's Korner that the Tampa Bay-New Orleans Divisional Playoff game would be hyped more than the other three match-ups.

The focus of the media was about the head-to-head battle between the two oldest quarterbacks today in the National Football League—the Buccaneers' 43-year-old Tom Brady and the Saints' 42-year-old Drew Brees.

I also pointed out that it was almost an impossibility for one team to beat the other three times in one season.

Well, it didn't happen Sunday in the Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans, but it was because Brees had an off-day while Brady used his experience of winning the game in the fourth period or overtime. Brees has hinted that Sunday may have been the final NFL game of his career after hinting all season of retirement.

Brees had three interceptions in a playoff game for the first time in his long career while Brady led his team to the conference championship game for the 14th time in his career by upsetting the Saints 30-20. Tampa Bay scored 14 points from the Saints' four turnovers.

The game was pretty much nip-and-tuck with the first half ending in a 13-13 tie and then 20-20 going into the final quarter. Brady was at his finest in the fourth period as he led the Bucs to a 36-yard field goal by Ryan Succop and scored the clinching touchdown himself from one yard out.

Now Brady will be facing another greybeard quarterback in Green Bay's 37-year-old Aaron Rodgers Sunday, who led the Packers to an impressive 32-18 over the Los Angeles Rams and their No. 1 defense, giving the Packers a chance to win their ninth NFC championship.

The Packers are an early 3½-point favorite, most of which comes for having to play in freezing temperatures with a chance of snow.

Rodgers, who is the favorite to win the 2020 Most Valuable Player Award, threw for two touchdowns and ran for another, notched his eighth-straight playoff game with multiple pass-

KAZ'S KORNER Page 3B

# Hunters heading for the home stretch

**OUTDOORS**  
**CAPT. CHUCK UZZLE**  
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

With just a precious few days left in the 2020-21 hunting season most outdoors folks are scurrying around trying to finish up on a high note.

Whitetail season is done except for a few special seasons or permitted hunts and waterfowl season is not far behind. Texas hunters have until the end of the month while those who hunt across the river will finish up this coming weekend. Most folks agree that if you haven't made it happen yet that more than likely you won't before the season closes.

Still there are those who will continue to hunt hard until the final day and enjoy the last opportunities provided before everything closes for 8 long months.

Before we take a look at what's left in the season I need to answer a question that I've been asked several times here recently. On more than a few occasions local hunters and fishermen have asked me if I agree with everything that is written in "The Record" newspapers, specifically on the political side. To be completely honest I adamantly disagree with the way President Trump is portrayed on some of the pages here. I realize and respect that everyone has the right to free speech so all I can say is that I agree to disagree on this subject and I will continue to support the things President Trump stood for, most importantly putting America and Americans first. The next administration will be extremely unfriendly to those of us who enjoy the outdoors so all of the outdoor enthusiasts need to brace for some very uncomfortable challenges



Plenty of geese and low duck numbers have been the report in areas like Arkansas and farther north.  
RECORD PHOTO: Capt. Chuck Uzzle

in the days ahead. It would prove extremely wise to stay informed on legislation and be active when voting because the way of life that many of us believe in has never been so close to being nothing but a memory.

Okay, being that waterfowl season is basically all that's left to focus on it's time to call it like it is and the only

word that comes to mind is "dismal". We all agree 2020 had more than it's share of trials and tribulations so adding to that long laundry list of woes is the fact that we have had well below average duck numbers in virtually every state. I was in Arkansas 2 weeks

UZZLE Page 2B

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# Sam Rayburn logs first Toyota ShareLunker bass



Big Sam Rayburn is on the board! Travis Moore has submitted the first ShareLunker of 2021. SL586 is a 13.44-pounder landed during the Bass Champs tournament.

## Staff Report For The Record

AUSTIN – The second weekend of the 2021 Toyota ShareLunker season produced the first Legacy Class largemouth bass at Sam Rayburn Reservoir. Angler Travis Moore reeled in the 13.44-pounder using a Carolina rig during the Bass Champs tournament Saturday January 9.

“It was a great day on the water at Sam Rayburn,” said Moore. “After about 15 or so casts and a few good bites, I finally hooked into my first 2021 bass and it was a giant 13.44 — pounder. We initially weighed her in the boat before taking her to the tournament weigh in where Chad with Bass Champs put her on the scale to get the official number. My heart started beating fast and I was so excited I could have jumped up and down, but I kept my composure.”

Once Texas Parks and Wildlife Department Inland Fisheries biologists were notified Saturday evening, they quickly got on the road to collect and transport “ShareLunker 586” to the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens, where biologists are providing her top-notch care. Biologists plan to attempt to spawn her to make bigger better bass to stock in and enhance fishing in Texas lakes.

“This was one of the best days of my life,” added Moore. “I’ve caught a few 12 pounders and hand full of 10 pounders, but this one here is special for me for sure. As a bass fisherman, this is what we fish for every time we go out on the water.”

Saturday’s catch by Moore was the first Legacy Class largemouth on the lake since 2018. Stacy Spriggs caught SL576 that weighed in at 13.06 pounds with a length of 27 inches on the final day of the 2018 season.

“We are excited to start off the new year on such a positive note with having a ShareLunker so early in the spawning season,” said Toyota ShareLunker Program Coordinator Kyle Brookshear. “Great management work

has been happening at Rayburn and we feel that it’s primed to keep producing these world class size fish. This fish along with the others to be donated for spawning this season will continue to help create our ShareLunker broodstock and produce bigger better bass in Texas fisheries.”

During the first three months of the season (Jan. 1 through March 31), anglers who reel in a 13+ pound bass can loan it to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for the ShareLunker selective breeding and stocking program. These anglers can call the ShareLunker hotline at (903) 681-0550 to report their catch 24/7 until April 1, 2021.

Anglers who catch and donate one of these 13+ lunkers earn Legacy Class status, receive a catch kit filled with merchandise, a 13lb+ Legacy decal for their vehicle or boat, VIP access to the Toyota ShareLunker Annual Awards event and a high-quality replica of their lunker fish. These anglers will also receive entries into two separate drawings; a Legacy Class Drawing and the year-end Grand Prize Drawing. Both drawings will award the winner a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and an annual fishing license.

Anglers who enter data for any lunker they catch greater than 8 lbs. or 24 inches during the calendar year 2021 also receive a catch kit, a decal for their vehicle or boat and an entry into the year-end Grand Prize Drawing to win a \$5,000 Bass Pro Shops shopping spree and annual fishing license. ShareLunker entry classes include the Lunker Class (8lb+), Elite Class (10lb+), and Legend Class (13lb+).

Once a lunker is reeled in, anglers need to enter the catch data on the Toyota ShareLunker mobile app – available for free from the Apple App Store and Google Play – or on the Toyota ShareLunker online app at TexasSharelunker.com. In addition to providing basic catch information, anglers can also provide a DNA scale sample from their lunker bass to TPWD researchers for genetic analysis.

The Toyota ShareLunker Program is made possible in part by the generous sponsorship of Toyota. Toyota is a longtime supporter of Texas Parks and Wildlife Foundation and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, providing major funding for a wide variety of fisheries, state parks and wildlife projects.

Prize donors Bass Pro Shops, Lake Fork Taxidermy, American Fishing Tackle Co. and Stanley Jigs also provide additional support for this program. For updates on the Toyota ShareLunker Program, visit facebook.com/sharelunkerprogram/ or TexasSharelunker.com

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## Uzzle From Page 1B

ago near Stuttgart, one of the meccas of duck hunting, and I all the talk centered around how poor the season had been and how few ducks they have had during the season. When an area like Stuttgart starts singing the blues you can bet it's bad. I hunted 4 states this season and each one sang the same song, hunting was hit and miss at best. No consistency whatsoever in the migration has been the thorn in the side of waterfowl hunters all year. A multitude of factors, weather mostly, has been responsible for the dismal season and it looks like that pattern will hold out until the end.

Another unprecedented factor this year was the border closure in Canada. Thousands of American hunters converge on the great white north during the season, especially early in the season around September

and October. The affect of little to no hunting pressure on the ducks and geese is unknown but it certainly seems to have allowed the birds more time to stay up north rather than begin the southern migration. The lasting effects will not be known for a while but just the fact that an entire age class of birds never migrated all the way south will be a hard trend to reverse later because the young birds won't know they are supposed to leave. Only time will tell.

Hopefully all of you who are still hunting can end your season on a high note one way or another. The snow goose conservation season is just around the corner for the die hards and after that it's time to get back on the water and wait until September comes back around when we can do it all again.

**“Everybody Reads The Record!”**

**IN PRINT AND ONLINE**

# Astros sign 10 international free agents, Cuba's Pedro Leon

Staff Report  
For The Record

HOUSTON MLB News- The Houston Astros have agreed to terms on contracts with 10 international free agents, including eight players from the Dominican Republic, one from Cuba and one from Venezuela. The an-

nouncement was made by Astros Senior Director of Baseball Operations Armando Velasco. Terms of the contracts were not disclosed.

"Assembling a strong international class is not an easy task to pull off, but the work done by our scouting department and office staff this year has been incredible," said Velasco.

## Kaz's Korner From Page 1B

ing touchdowns which is the longest streak in NFL history.

Brady, who will be playing in his 32nd playoff game, will either be loved or hated by the fans in this game. His key to winning will be to find a rushing game and having enough time to find his targets.

I'm one of those fans who won't shed any tears if Brady's Buccaneers lose and am predicting a 38-31 Green Bay victory Sunday.

Both of the favorites in the AFC Divisional Playoffs came through with victories as expected, as the Buffalo Bills defense had one of its best games of the season, completely thwarting the Baltimore Ravens offense, limiting them to a first-half field goal and advancing to meet the defending Super Bowl champion Kansas City Sunday at Arrowhead Stadium.

The Bills' defense completely throttled the Ravens and their franchise quarterback Lamar Jackson, forcing them to their inept passing game and outclassing them 17-3 Saturday night. Jackson left the game late in the third quarter under the NFL concussion protocol and undrafted rookie Tyler Huntley took over the Ravens quarterbacking chores.

And it was the concussion protocol that ended Sunday's playoff game for Kansas City quarterback Patrick Mahomes, who was hit hard on a third period quarterback sneak with the Chiefs ahead 19-10. Back-up Chad Henne, an 11-year NFL veteran in his second season at Kansas City, took over and led his team to a 33-yard field goal by Harrison Butker.

After Cleveland scored a touchdown early in the fourth period narrowing the Chiefs lead to 22-17, the Browns were forced to punt on their next possession with eight minutes left. That would be the last time the Browns would touch the football.

Henne really earned his keep in the final eight minutes, moving the football downfield and eating up the clock. After getting sacked, he faced a third-and-14, couldn't find an open receiver and decided to run.

It was apparent he was going to be short of his mark and launched himself toward the first down marker and came up one yard short. So, with fourth-and-one, instead of

punting from midfield, Head Coach Andy Reid called for a pass to the right flat which was caught by wide receiver Tyreek Hill who wisely sat down in bounds after making the first down.

Henne then went into a victory formation to kill the remaining 90 seconds and sent his team to the AFC championship game against Buffalo at 5:45 p.m. in Arrowhead Stadium.

Even though Mahomes' status will be determined by the independent neurological doctors later this week, I believe he will play and win 27-21, covering the early 3-point line on the game.

But history said it will be close as 29 NFL quarterbacks did the concussion protocol and the median time of their return was seven days.

### KWICKIES...

Houston Astros general manager James Click is trying to beef up the pitching staff by adding free agent reliever Pedro Baez and Ryne Stanek to the mix. Click promises there will be more moves made before spring training next month.

I can't believe Lamar University is joining the old defunct Western Athletic Conference and leaving the Southland Conference after so many years. That will certainly kill the rivalry between the Cardinals and McNeese State in Lake Charles.

The Kansas City Chiefs will be the first AFC team to ever host three straight Conference Championship games. The Philadelphia Eagles of the NFC did it from 2002 to 2004.

### JUST BETWEEN US...

I believe by the time this column hits the streets Wednesday, the Houston Texans will be looking for a new quarterback. Deshaun Watson, who carried the team on his back the entire 2020 season, is through playing for the team because the front office didn't invite him to have a voice in the hiring of a new general manager and head coach like they promised earlier. He can't play for a team he doesn't trust and wants out. His actions definitely will affect who the new head coach will be. Many of them are reluctant to work for an organization that talks out of both sides of the mouth.



Outfielder Pedro Leon, a five-tool player ranked by MLB.com as the No. 7 prospect in this year's international signing class.

"Today's signings could not have happened without the support of Jim Crane and our entire ownership group, or the hard work of our scouts in the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, and Mexico. For these players, today is only the beginning. It is a long road ahead to the Major Leagues and our player development staff will support them every step of the way. We look forward to each player's journey and development and we hope to see all of them grow to their full potential."

The current MLB International signing period, runs from January 15 through December 15, 2021.

Among the signings was outfielder Pedro Leon, a five-tool player ranked by MLB.com as the No. 7 prospect in this year's international signing class. A 22-year-old native of Cuba, Leon played two seasons in Cuba's Serie Nacional, where he hit .359 with 21 home runs and a 1.098 OPS (.420 OBP/.678 SLG) in 65 games across two seasons. During the 2018 season, he was named an All-Star at 20

years old after batting .383 with seven doubles, 15 home runs, 36 RBI and a 1.256 OPS (.467 OBP/.789 SLG) in 33 games.

"Pedro Leon projects to be an everyday center fielder and rapid mover to the big leagues," said Astros Senior Scouting Advisor Charlie Gonzalez. "Pedro has a compact build, tremendous strength and is an extreme quick-twitch athlete. He possesses five plus baseball tools on the 20-80 scouting scale, including an 80-grade arm with throws between 96 and 100 miles per hour. His personal character is exemplary, and he has well above-average baseball game instincts and work ethic both on and off the field. We are very excited to bring Pedro into the organization."

Signings consist of five right-handed pitchers, three outfielders, one infielder and one catcher. Below is the full list of international free agents who were signed by the Astros today:

NAME	HOMETOWN	AGE	POS	HT	WT	B/T
Carlos Arcila	Maracay, VZ	17	C	5'11	155	R/R
Freilyn De Peña	Samaná, DR	17	RHP	5'10	173	R/R
Richel Del Rosario	Santo Domingo, DR	16	OF	6'0	191	R/R
Yamal Encarnación	Villa Mella, DR	17	IF	5'8	150	S/R
Pedro Leon	La Habana, Cuba	22	OF	5'10	170	R/R
Brayan Nolasco	San Pedro de Macorís, DR	17	OF	5'9	178	R/R
Darwin Rosario	Santo Domingo Este, DR	20	RHP	6'3	180	R/R
Juan Soto	Santiago, DR	17	RHP	6'2	209	R/R
Miguel Ullola	Puerto Plata, DR	18	RHP	6'1	184	R/R
Elvin Villega	La Romana, DR	18	RHP	6'2	173	R/R



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# Honeybees wintering in Southeast Texas

Len VanMarion  
Texas Master Beekeeper  
Texas Master Gardener

Do you ever wonder why you don't see honeybees in the winter? Well it's because they don't leave the hive when temperatures are lower than the mid 50's.

The bees in the hive will stay clustered in the hive to keep the brood area 92 to 95 degrees F. They will eat the honey that they stored all summer to keep the hive alive.

The cluster of bees will get tighter and tighter as the temperature drops. Some of the bees will shiver to produce heat. I say shiver but what they do is they flex their shoulder muscles to produce body heat. It is very much like when you workout at the gym and sweat even though it's cool inside the gym. The bees will rotate their position within the hive and take turns shivering to heat the area.

When the temperatures are cold the bees can't leave



The cluster of bees will get tighter and tighter as the temperature drops.

the hive as they don't have a way to regulate their own temperature sort of like a reptile. Once the temps rise to the mid 50's some of the bees will venture out in search of blooming plants to help supplement their honey supply. If the hive fails to store enough honey or if the beekeepers robs too much honey the hive will starve. Most of the starvation occurs in late February or early March.

Often the weather will warm up and we will get some early flowers. Once the temps rise the bees become more active and the queen will begin to lay more eggs in preparation for spring.

The hive must judge the weather and decide when to build up their numbers in anticipation of the nectar flows that occur late April to June. If the bees delay their spring population growth they might miss the honey

flow and not store enough honey for next winter. If they start their spring population growth to early their population in the hive might exceed the honey stores and the hive will starve.

Early spring late winter is a critical time for the bees. Here in Southeast Texas that time is late February. We often get early spring blooms followed by a late frost. Many of the backyard gardeners know this fact well. How many times have you planted tomatoes to loose them to a frost and have to replant. Even if you did not have to completely replant, I'll bet you spent some time covering and trying to keep the frost away.

For those of you that noticed honeybees on your hummingbird feeders, well mid February is a good time to refill and place them out. Place them out for the bees then keep them out in March for the migrating hummers. Help 2 of natures miracles honeybees and hummingbirds.

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# A Walk on the Natural Side: Apple Cider Vinegar

Amber Geer Williams  
Columnist  
For The Record

Under our current situation in society, dealing with the presence of Covid-19, it's now more important than ever that we take care of ourselves; mind, body & spirit. Not only with just Covid-19 but with anything that comes our way! If this has taught us anything, it has made us take a look at how we care for our bodies. Building a strong immune system is an important part of our life!

I would love to discuss an age old fermented liquid called Apple Cider Vinegar with the "Mother". It has been around for thousands of years, being used for its many medicinal qualities. Raw and unpasteurized ACV

turns into acetic acid, which is the key component that activates its' medicinal benefits. ACV is rich in enzymes, contains minerals and friendly bacteria making it a wonderful source of antioxidants and antimicrobial benefits.

Among its' medicinal qualities, people use ACV to improve digestion, speeding up the metabolism and digestion process helping create a balance in the digestive tract. It also has been known to help with Type II Diabetes by lowering blood sugar levels and improving insulin sensitivity over time.

Many also believe ACV helps to lower cholesterol and blood pressure levels, basically improving overall heart health, as it decreases inflammation throughout

the body. Many have also used it to help with weight loss. It increases your feeling of fullness.

One main reason for using it as I mentioned in the beginning is for its immunity benefits. ACV with the "Mother" can stimulate the activity of what is known as the phagocytosis process. This organic process is one of the body's immune responses to any foreign invaders.

Recognizing, engulfing and destroying toxic pathogens and cell debris that invade our body from everyday exposure and ingestion of the food we eat. ACV stimulates the white blood cells to speed up and fight infection.

In my opinion, ACV helps improve your overall health. As with anything, Modera-

tion is Key! There are certain circumstances, depending on your ailments and prescribed medications where ACV may not be beneficial for you to take on a regular basis, so Please be sure to consult your Healthcare Provider before implementing anything into your diet.

Recommended dosage of a tonic creation would be 1 to 2 Tbsp in an 8 to 16 ounce glass of water. For added benefits and taste, you can add a couple of Tsp of Lemon Juice and a Tbsp of local honey to your mixture. Normally it is taken in the morning when you wake or in the evening before you go to bed. If you do want to take it after you eat, wait about 20 mins. before doing so that way you will benefit from its' medicinal qualities.

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**CROSSWORD**

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- \*Starr of Super Bowl I and MVP
- Epsom or ...vian-les-Bains
- Mexican money
- Gulf V.I.P.
- Biblical pronoun
- Competitive musher, e.g.
- Saintly glow
- From the sky and often damaging
- Early anesthetic
- \*Halftime show performer
- Photo editing option
- T. S., poet
- Chi forerunner
- \*Team with most consecutive Super Bowl appearances
- Swindles
- Even, to a poet
- Slanting characters
- Cough syrup balsam
- Travels by air
- "What's up \_\_\_\_?", asked by Bugs Bunny
- Southeast Asia org.
- German currency
- Wb, pl.
- 9 to 5, e.g.
- Substitute, two words

**DOWN**

- Thai currency
- Wet nurse
- Rub the wrong way
- Gardener's little helper
- British soldier's parade hat
- \*P in PAT
- "\_\_\_\_ Lang Syne"
- \*Team with most Super Bowl appearances
- Reverberating sound
- Slowly leak
- NHL great
- Opposite of atheist
- Short version

**19. \_\_\_\_ Island off Manhattan**

**22. Nervous twitch**

**23. Knockout**

**24. Below, prefix**

**25. \*Player with most Super Bowl points scored**

**26. Warm down-slope wind**

**27. Distress signal**

**28. Phoenix team**

**29. Flock members**

**31. Port of Yemen**

**32. Tennis shot**

**35. \*Jim Nantz's partner**

**37. Savory jelly**

**39. A must for a comedian**

**40. Williams and Wright**

**43. Natural theology**

**45. Answer to "Where are you?", two words**

**47. Surrendered land**

**48. Spy's other name**

**49. Feline vibration**

**50. Albany-Buffalo canal**

**51. Cowboy's necktie**

**52. Pelvic parts**

**53. Big letters**

**54. Proposal joint**

**55. "I" mania**

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# BCISD Bridge City Elementary School

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### Celebrating Thanksgiving and Christmas In November 2020

#### Quote of the Week



BCE students enjoyed making a "Quote of the Week" with Mr. Lintzen.

#### MRS. HALEIGH WOLFORD



The students and staff were saddened by the unexpected passing of our wonderful Fine Arts teacher Mrs. Haleigh Wolford. She will forever be remembered in our hearts and lives.

#### BCE Students Cast Their Votes on Election Day 2020



Bridge City Elementary students learned about Election Day and the process of registering to vote, learning about the candidates, and then filling out the ballot.



Our students here at BCE have enjoyed being back at school this year. Even with the change in schedule and having to combine Thanksgiving and Christmas activities all in the month of November, lots of learning and fun took place.

Happy Thanksgiving!

From Mrs. Riojas' Little Turkeys!

