



ORANGE COUNTY FISHING
Capt. Dickie Colburn
Page 1 Section B



Outdoors HUNTING & FISHING
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
Page 3 Section B



KAZ'S KORNER SPORTS COMMENTARY
Page 1 Section B



RELIGION & LOCAL CHURCH GUIDE
Page 6A

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The Penny Record

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Week of Wednesday, January 6, 2020

Rep. Babin helps lead Electoral challenge

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Brian Babin, Orange County's voice in the U.S. House of Representatives, said those who don't join him Wednesday in objecting to the Electoral College vote count will live to regret it.

Babin was an early adopter of a "Hail Mary" plan to make a formal objection to the Electoral College results when they are presented to a joint session of Congress Wednesday.

"This is a pivotal moment," Babin posted on his Twitter



Babin

"History will be unforgiving." Beaumont's U.S. Rep., Randy Weber, and a number of other Republicans in the House are planning to join the call to object to the electoral votes of key battleground states in a long-shot effort to overturn the Nov. 3

election of President-elect Joe Biden.

In order for an objection to be considered, it must be endorsed by at least one senator and one representative. Texas' Ted Cruz is among the Senators who came forward to publicly support Mis-

souri's Josh Hawley in objecting to Pennsylvania's results.

The President and his allies claim Biden won through widespread voter fraud and want a 10-day audit conducted to review voter fraud allegations.

But more than 50 lawsuits alleging fraud have been dismissed by state and federal courts, some by judges appointed by Trump.

William Barr, Trump's Attorney General until he resigned in December, declared there was no evidence

of fraud that could change the November election outcome.

Sen. Mitch McConnell (Kentucky), the Senate Majority Leader, urged his fellow Republicans not to sign

BABIN Page 3A

Judge Peveto picks up 163rd gavel

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

After winning what is believed to be the most expensive election race in Orange County in 20 years, Rex Peveto had to wait nine months before claiming his office.

He wasn't complaining last Saturday, Jan. 1, after taking the oath of office as 163rd District Court Judge.

He did it at the family estate in north Orange County, with his new court coordinator Liz Langston reading the oath and Peveto repeating after her.

Because of Covid-19, only the closest of family members attended.

Those included Peveto's wife Robin, sons Taylor, Jus-

tice and Eli and daughter-in-law Abbie, Taylor's wife, and parents Wayne and Sandra.

"I would have loved to have had a large event, because I had so many people support me," the second-generation Orange attorney said.

"But with Covid the way it is, I didn't want anyone to get sick. "My family knows so many people who have had Covid. My mother's sister died from Covid."

Peveto's dad, former Texas Rep. Wayne Peveto, expressed the family's pride in Rex's election.

"I'm awful pleased for him and the county," the elder Peveto said. "I feel it will be a real settling, steady influ-

PEVETO Page 3A



New 163rd District Court Judge Rex Peveto, front right, is surrounded by family after taking the vows of his office Friday, Jan. 1.

WWII vet hits 100, targets 101

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Ray Fontenot has voted in 20 Presidential elections.

"Every president from Roosevelt to Biden," he said Tuesday as the dishes were cleared from his 100th birthday party, a small family affair.

"I voted for [Franklin] Roosevelt twice."

Born on Jan. 5, 1921 and raised in Grand Prairie, Louisiana, near Opelousas, the World War II vet and DuPont retiree was actually alive during the final days of the Woodrow Wilson administration, just after the ends of World War I (1918) and the Spanish Flu pandemic (1920).

Warren G. Harding, Calvin Coolidge and Herbert Hoover were others who won presidential elections during Fontenot's youth.

Today, the newly minted centenarian looks like he could still crawl into position as a belly gunner in a B-24 bomber and keep a keen eye out for enemy fighters.

There's a sparkle in his eyes.

Did you know that in 1999, at age 98, he became the oldest Texan to have a heart valve replacement?

He only needed a one-night stay in the hospital then. Same with his recent surgery to remove a salivary gland tumor.

"He's a tough old bird,"



Ray Fontenot of Orange, a World War II veteran and DuPont retiree, celebrates his 100th birthday Tuesday.
RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

said his daughter, Belinda Cormier.

But his hearing's not good and, with coronavirus protocol requiring plenty of distance between he and the masked interviewer, Cormier sat in the middle of the two and relayed questions and answers Tuesday.

She says only Covid-19 safety measures have slowed her dad down.

"He still has his driver's license and he likes to drive through Whataburger and Dairy Queen, but misses sit-down visits with friends and from St. Mary's Catholic Church and the Knights of

Columbus.

"For a year now, that's come to a stop, because of the virus," Cormier said. "He's not as active as he used to be."

Fontenot, who tends a garden and a tiny Chihuahua

RAY FONTENOT Page 3A

Vaccinations slowly reach Orange County citizens

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

The state announced Monday that it would be getting another 325,000 doses of Covid-19 vaccine, saying it already had received more than 793,000 doses.

Orange County had received just 200 doses as of Tuesday morning.

Those were shipped to one location, the Brookshire Brothers Pharmacy in Vidor, which is giving a maximum of 20 vaccinations per day to predetermined sections of the public.

The vaccinations are not yet available to the general public.

County Judge John Gothia said the county had been allocated 100 additional doses,

requested more, and that request was granted.

But he didn't know any details of when and how many would be coming at Tuesday morning's meeting of Orange County Commissioners Court.

"The 200 that we had is pretty much gone," he said. "Either they've been given out or they've been accounted for with appointments already made, to first responders, medical and nursing homes.

"So we're basically out of the 200. Whether they've been given or not, they're only doing 20 a day."

At that rate, 100 new doses would be a five-day allotment.

And by first responders, Gothia admitted he was talk-

ing about doctors, medical staff, EMTs, correctional medical staff and school nurses.

Policemen, firemen and Sheriff's Office deputies are not among the Phase 1A or 1B populations to be vaccinated but people 65 and over are.

Gothia said county police, fire and sheriff departments were pre-booking their vaccination appointments but did not mention if seniors would be vaccinated ahead of those government employees.

Of course, when it comes to allocations, Orange County's is lower than other Southeast Texas counties, because it doesn't have a hospital.

Jefferson County received

an initial 1,360 doses, Hardin County 1,600, Jasper County 800 and Chambers County 1,000.

In Winnie, Riceland Medical Center got 500 of its county's supply and vaccinated Jefferson County Sheriff Zena Stephens and her deputies on New Year's Eve, according to a story aired by KFDM-TV.

Gothia said Orange County citizens have been getting vaccinated for four weeks.

"The shots are taking place since the shots have been available," he said. "It's just that the general public is wanting it today."

"I'm wanting it today. But that's not the schedule they have."



Happy 2021!

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TEXAS STATE NEWS

Texas unveils plan to have all students take STAAR online by 2022

ALIYYA SWABY
The Texas Tribune



The report comes on the heels of Texas signing two, four-year contracts totaling \$388 million with companies to develop and administer the standardized tests.

Texas education officials want all public school students to take state-required standardized tests digitally by 2022, an effort that could cost school districts millions more collectively each year, according to a report released Monday.

The report, created by the Texas Education Agency and commissioned by state leaders, estimated school districts would have to make a one-time payment of about \$4 million total to improve internet connectivity, and then spend about \$13.4 million more annually for extra bandwidth and staff training. Many of the districts that need to increase funding are small and rural.

That investment would allow nearly all students to take the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, or STAAR, online by the 2022-23 school year, according to the report. That excludes students who may need paper tests due to disabilities or other special cases.

"Benefits of online assessments include the potential for faster results, the potential for customizable assessment, more engaging assess-

ment questions, reduced operational complexity and paper waste, better test security, improved administration, and more equitable access to accommodation supports for students," the report reads.

In 2018-19, just 13% of STAAR tests were administered online, many for students who needed accommodations due to disabilities.

The decision is not final. State lawmakers will have to vote on the timeline and scope during the legislative session, which begins next week, in order for the TEA to move forward with the plan. In 2019, the Legislature passed House Bill 3906, which required the TEA and

State Board of Education to develop a transition plan to administer all required statewide tests electronically starting no later than 2022-23.

The TEA recommended lawmakers allow school districts to use a pot of money currently allowed for textbooks and technology to pay for improved internet connection and staff training. And it recommended the state create a new matching grant program to help districts with one-time costs.

"Meeting the outstanding costs will require [districts] to be strategic in their allocation of available funding," the report reads. The recommendation comes as Texas

school districts beg the state not to cut funding this semester for those seeing enrollment declines due to the pandemic.

The report also comes on the heels of Texas signing two, four-year contracts totaling \$388 million with companies to develop and administer the STAAR, eventually completely online. In 2021, as Texas transitions to its new testing contracts, it will pay three companies a total of at least \$120.6 million across four contracts for services related to student testing, according to the state budget site.

The TEA hired Texas A&M education researchers to evaluate how ready school districts are to transition to administering STAAR completely online. The researchers surveyed a sample of Texas school districts and other states' testing programs, including California, Florida and Pennsylvania.

They heard from other states that transitioning to online testing helped incorporate technological skills into students' education, lower testing costs for the state, improve test security and speed up the timeline for getting scores back. And state experts recommended providing state funds to help

districts buy the equipment they needed.

"The increased speed with which results from online testing were returned helped schools and teachers identify gaps in student understanding, often before those students left for summer vacation," the report reads.

When surveyed in May, many Texas districts said they needed more devices to transition to fully online testing, according to the report. Districts also reported that devices were not distributed equally among all their schools, potentially because some schools had extra grants and others did not. Texas has spent more than \$900 million on remote learning during the pandemic, which may have changed some of those responses.

School officials interviewed said they agreed online testing would help prepare their students for the workforce, but some worried about students from low-income families with less access to technology at home. And they said they did not have enough staff to support the transition.

Texas canceled the STAAR last spring after the pandemic prompted the closure of all school buildings and an immediate move to remote learning. Many parents, advocates and superintendents are encouraging Texas to ask for a federal waiver to do the same this year. Texas Education Commissioner Mike Morath has said students will take the STAAR, but schools and districts will not be rated on their scores.

Texas hires two companies to run STAAR

Staff Report
For The Record

Texas is once again shaking up its standardized testing contracts, signing four-year agreements totaling \$388 million with two companies to develop and administer its controversial State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness exams for public school students.

Cambium Assessment, a

Washington D.C.-based testing company, will receive \$262 million from 2021 through 2024 to manage the administration, scoring and reporting of all student assessments on one online platform.

Pearson, a London-based company whose longtime role in Texas' testing program was scaled back several years ago, will receive an additional \$126 million from 2021 through 2024 to devel-

op and construct the assessments. It will also continue work on an existing testing contract through August.

The two companies will take over from Educational Testing Service, or ETS, which has had the bulk of the state's testing contract since 2016. ETS' contract ends Aug. 31. In 2021, Texas will pay all three companies a total of at least \$120.6 million across four contracts for services related to student testing, according

to the state budget site.

"Cambium and Pearson were selected in a competitive solicitation that divided test administration and item development into two separate contracts given the specialization required for each," the Texas Education Agency said in a statement Tuesday. "This one-year overlap is an intentional effort to ensure a smooth operational transition that will ultimately benefit school districts across the state."

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Ray Fontenot at 100, targets 101

From Page 1

hua named Nikki, is a longtime fan of the Houston Astros baseball team.

Besides current Astros George Springer and Jose Altuve, a couple players from the team's first two decades, Joe Morgan and Nolan Ryan, are favorites of Fontenot, says his grandson, Paul Hebert.

Growing up on a farm in Louisiana meant Fontenot wasn't immediately aware of the Great Depression.

"Of course, he didn't know what was going on in the big world. He had plenty of food, and he had a roof over his head," Cormier said.

He was part of a graduating class of seven at Grand Prairie's school and spent two-plus years in the Civilian Conservation Corps before marrying Virgie, his wife of 70 years until she passed away in 2011.

He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1942 and was discharged in 1946. He trained as part of a bomber crew but the war ended before he saw combat.

After the war and before DuPont, Ray joined his dad in Orange, working in the Consolidated Steel shipyard.

Ray and Virgie built their first house in Groves, then moved to Orange in 1960. The couple had one child. Belinda and her husband, Johnny Cormier, and son Paul make up Fontenot's immediate family.

But they are hardly his only family, as proven by dozens of birthday cards from second and third cousins piled up in front of him.

"The Fontenot family has stayed close," Cormier said.

Ray attends family reunions annually. Except in 2020, of course.

"I've had pretty good health all these years and I've made history on my father's side of the family, the first one to reach 100," Fontenot said. "But I've lost all of my friends my age."

On the big day of his 100th birthday, his daughter relayed a request to name his favorite baseball player and Fontenot looked puzzled.

He thought she asked him to name his favorite breakfast place.

But there was no hesitation when she asked him to name the favorites of all the presidents his life has seen.

"Roosevelt, Eisenhower and Clinton," he said. "I'm not going to tell you about the worst."

While clearly not wanting to say anything that would cause a stir, Fontenot acknowledged another worst on his list included the state of the union.

The virus and the politics, viral politics and the politics of the virus have created a weird climate.

"This is the worst I've ever seen this country," said the 100-year-old man. "It's too divided. It isn't going to work."

He will be watching for a solution in his second 100 years.

Peveto, winning candidates take oaths

From Page 1

ence." Rex Peveto was one of 13 officials elected in county- or precinct-wide races in 2020 to be sworn in on Jan. 1, 2021. County Judge John Gothia was sworn in for a two-year term and all others for four-year terms.

Gothia was a replacement for former Judge Dean Crooks and Kirk Roccaforte a replacement for Gothia as commissioner. Because Crooks' surprise resignation took place before the midway point in his four-year term and Gothia eventually was appointed to that office in the same time frame, the judge's election is just for the remainder of those four-year terms.

All 13 of the officials ran as Republicans and not one faced an opponent, so, in effect, their wins in the March 3 primary secured their jobs before the Nov. 3 election.

Reelected to office were 128th District Court Judge Courtney Arkeen, County Court-At-Law Judge Troy Johnson, County Attorney John Kimbrough, Precinct 1 Commissioner Johnny Trah-

an and County Tax Assessor-Collector Karen Fisher.

Elected to their jobs for the first time were Peveto, Gothia, Roccaforte, Sheriff Lane Mooney, and Constables Lannie Claybar (Precinct 1), Jeremiah Gunter (Precinct 2), Brad Frye (Precinct 3) and Matt Ortego (Precinct 4).

Peveto was the only one of the eight winning his first term in the job not to be called to work early because of his predecessor's early retirement.

Because of coronavirus, judges are holding no jury trials and doing most hearings via Zoom. Retiring Judge Dennis Powell, who raised \$115,000 in his winning run for the 163rd bench in 2000, conducted cases remotely from his new retirement home in Boerne before his term ended in December, Peveto said.

"Judge Powell has been awesome," Peveto said. "He's continued to work hard, continued to schedule things, so I already have a week's cases scheduled."

"Judge Arkeen and Judge



County Judge John Gothia, center, and Commissioners Johnny Trahan and Kirk Roccaforte took their 2021 oaths of office in the 128th District Court courtroom Friday, Jan. 1.

[Steve] Parkhurst have been real helpful, too."

Peveto and his primary opponent, Orange attorney Michael Catt, each spent nearly \$50,000 in their March races. Peveto won with 59% of the votes, finishing about 2,400 votes ahead of his opponent.

He's been busy closing out his practice in his family law firm headed by Wayne Peveto, who was a state representative for a dozen years.

"My brother Eric is taking

over the cases I couldn't complete," Rex Peveto said.

Peveto said his biggest win in private practice was a \$2.9 million verdict on a wrongful death medical malpractice suit. He admitted that "with tort reform, our practice changed quite a bit."

"We took on more criminal cases, more real estate and probate cases. But it also prepared me for all the cases a judge has to handle," he said.

Babin

From Page 1

on to Jan. 6 objections, pointing out it was doomed to failure.

With a majority vote required in each house to pass the objection and the Democrats having the majority in the Senate, a recorded vote will serve only as a loyalty test to Trump, some say.

While many Republicans lawmakers, including McConnell, say the unfounded claims of voter fraud will only serve to upset the pillars of U.S. democracy as set out by the founding fathers, more than 74 million certified voters for Trump in November cannot be overlooked by politicians intent on being reelected.

The President, whether he exits or not Jan. 20, has hundreds of millions of dollars in his PAC funds, courtesy of

donors who wrote checks big or small to bankroll his election investigations and lawsuits.

But former Presidential candidate Mitt Romney, now a U.S. Senator for Utah, is a Republican who described the effort of Trump loyalists "as nonsense."

"Members of Congress who would substitute their own partisan judgment for that of the courts do not enhance public trust, they imperil it," Romney said.

A Trump Tweet has called out the President's supporters for Wednesday.

"Big protest in D.C. on January 6th. Be there, it will be wild!" Trump tweeted.

Washington police have called out more than 300 National Guardsmen as backup for a demonstration predict-

ed to draw a turnout as large as 15,000.

Babin, 72, was born in Port Arthur and grew up in Beaumont, graduating from Lamar University. He is a dentist and former Woodville mayor who worked as Tyler County chairman for Ronald Reagan's Presidential election in 1980. Elected to Congress on his third try in 2014 as an advocate of term limits, Babin easily won his fourth two-year term in November.

In 2015, he endorsed Cruz for the 2016 Presidential race, but shifted his support to eventual Republican nominee Trump and has been a vocal supporter of the President.

He reported on his Twitter Saturday that he "had a call with @realDonaldTrump & TONS of Jan. 6 election ob-

jectors. Talked strategy - VERY encouraged!"

According to published accounts, Trump's conference call strategy session included at least 50 lawmakers.

"I'm not a lawyer. I'm a dentist. And we try to get to the root of the problem," Babin told an interviewer on Newsmax TV last week.

"I'm fighting very, very hard to stop the steal for every freedom-loving American in this country, and I'm very proud to stand up and object to the Electoral College vote submissions on the House floor Jan. 6 on behalf of every American who believes in a free and transparent election process."

"If we don't stand for election integrity now, we may never see an honest election again."

Dementia Care Givers' Support Group

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 p.m..



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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: 1.5em; color: red;">\$13,937</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: 1.5em; color: red;">\$49,111</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: 1.5em; color: red;">\$33,641</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: 1.5em; color: red;">\$32,337</p>

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From The Creaux's Nest

BATTLES BREW BUT DEMOCRACY WILL PREVAIL

We are headed into the last 13 days of a four year nightmare. I told you in this column over four years ago that if **Republicans** nominated **Trump** he would wreck the **GOP** as we know it. **Trump** has presided over the most liberal administration since **Jimmy Carter**. For years, an issue **Democrats** couldn't claim was being the party of state rights, now **Trump** and the radical element of his base, have just handed it over to the **Democrats** by attacking states, some controlled by their own party. I remind you that I said, "It will be four years of chaos and falsehoods, (30,000) lies to date, **Trump** never releasing his tax returns or turning against **Russia's** president **Putin**. Every step of the way it has been a failed leadership **Trump** was unfit to serve and he didn't grow with the job. He claimed to know more than the generals. "I alone can fix it." He claimed, as the country continued to fall apart when the pandemic came to our shores, that **Commander-in-Chief** wasn't at his post. Today, the U.S. leads the world in cases, 21 million and 400,000 deaths by the time **Trump** leaves in two weeks. Texan, former secretary of state, **Rex Tillerson**, called **Trump** a f---g moron. **Gen. Jim "Mad Dog" Mathes** called him a "buffoon" and **Gen. John Kelly**, chief of staff, who spent many hours with him, called him an "Idiot, just plain crazy." They knew him best. It's unpredictable what he might attempt in the last few days, he's a very desperate, sick person, who will try to destroy everything around him, even start a civil war within the **Republican Party**. He could end up with his 22% to 26% "bubba" base that he can use, if he can beat the indictments coming out of New York, to run as a third party candidate in 2024. That will throw **Ted Cruz**, who hopes to be the face of the **Republican Party**, and the other 30 candidates, a curve. I may not be here but remember where you read it. **Trump** attempting to get to **Georgia's** secretary of state was the last straw that broke the elephant's back, even with many **Republicans**. **Trump** quote: "All I want to do is this; I just want to find 11,780 votes, which is one more than we got." He had earlier claimed that the **Republican** governor, lieutenant governor and secretary of state should all be put in jail just because they wouldn't steal the election for him. It will all pass and we will wake up in a new dawn on Jan. 20, with the swearing in of **Joe Biden** as the 46th **President**. We will wake from this very bad reality show and its top star will be history. Keep asking yourself, "Did **Donald J. Trump**, the New York shyster, make **America** better or not, or is it like I told you it would be over four years ago?"

VACCINE ROLLOUT ANOTHER TRUMP FAILURE

Last year, **President Donald Trump** and **Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar** promised 100 million doses by the end of 2020. As late as Dec. 13, **Azar** expressed confidence that at least 20 million people would be vaccinated by Jan. 1. "Oh sure, yes" he told "Face the Nation." By year's end, however, more than 14 million doses of new **Pfizer** and **Moderna** vaccines had been delivered to states and over 3 million people had received the first of two shots. (Total shots as of Monday stood at nearly 4.6 million. The president, as usual, blamed everyone else. If vaccinations were late, he said, it was the fault of resource-strapped states with health care systems already overwhelmed with coronavirus patients. Dumping the vaccines on the states has had the same results as leaving masking decisions, testing, contact tracing and other responsibilities to the 50 governors. Some do a good job, some not so much, and the country ends up with a patchwork response to a national crisis. There is no time to lose. This is a national emergency Deaths have surpassed 350,000. Between 2,000 and 3,000 Americans are dying as a result of **COVID-19** every day. **Trump**, consumed with fantasies of overturning the election results, seems incapable of improving his leadership in this crisis. That means more delay as **America** waits for **President-elect Joe Biden** to take office in two weeks. **Biden** is promising to inoculate a million people per day during his first 100 days in office. We can only hope that he overdelivers.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2011

The state of **Texas** is facing big problems with a \$25 billion shortfall. Notice they don't call it a deficit because **Texas** is a pay cash state so they cook the books. **Gov. Rick Perry** has trimmed his inauguration to a barbecue to save money. He's still in his \$10,000 a month mansion. **Perry** will stick to his guns, no new taxes, pulling the wool over citizen's eyes. The shortfall will cut necessary services but the worst is more **Perry** fees on everything. Over his last twelve years he has tripled or more all fees, from hunting and fishing to court cost. Example: When he took office court cost on a speeding ticket was \$18 dollars, today its \$99 dollars, and then the fine is added. **Texans** are paying more taxes than ever before but it's called fees. ****This year, 2011, we are recognizing some special ladies; all of them are widowed. We hold each one in high esteem. First

is our friend of many years, **Anabel Anderson**. She has been one of the pillars at **St. Mary's Catholic Church** for over 70 years. *****Marcelle Adams**, the first woman county commissioner who for many years was married to **Cowboy Adams**. They contributed much to our betterment. Her daughter, **Theresa Beauchamp**, is currently serving on the **Orange City Council**. *** **Joy Young Parish**, age 90, was for many years married to **Monroe Parish**. As a young lady she was the wife of attorney **John O. Young**. *****Juanita Toronjo**, age 86, has been active with the **Orange Historical Society** for many years. Along with her husband **Walter** who she married Oct. 1, 1943. **Walter** passed away June 30, 2010. **Juanita** is still active as treasurer and corresponding secretary of the **Orange County Historical Society**. She also publishes the magazine **Las Sabinas**, recording the history of **Orange County**. *****Marilou Pachar Gunn**, "MiMi" to her grand and great-grandchildren. **Marilou** turns 83 this Wednesday, Jan. 5. She was married to **Donald**, a former constable of Pct. 2. *****Mary Ann Cruse**, longtime **Bridge City School District** employee. She was a music teacher who has played many church services, weddings and other functions. She was an inspiration to all her neighbors after Ike destroyed the neighborhood. She was the first to say, "Let's stay and rebuild." *****Nova Dee Holts Strickland**, longtime **Little Cypress-Mauriceville** employee. **Nova** was married to the late **Jerry Strickland**, and raised two beautiful girls. She published an historical book, "Bugscuffle" chronicling her life and family, being the daughter of **Chester Holts**, longest serving county sheriff. *** That brings me down to the "Sweetheart of the Year." Picking **Pearl Burgess**, age 90, was easy this year. She has been so active and is an inspiration to young and old alike. She's a bundle of energy, well stacked in a small package, an extremely talented lady who is our poet laureate. The latest issue of the **Las Sabinas** features her pretty picture on the cover and a detailed story of her childhood in **Brunner Addition** and also the history of her ancestors, the **Myers of Orange County**. **** Saturday many old friends greeted **Ruby Pickard**, a wonderful lady, who for many years ran "Make a Wish" and fulfilled many people's wishes in their final days. She attended the Jan. 1 swearing in ceremonies at the **Court House** in **Orange**. **Judge Carl Thibodeaux**, **Judge David Peck**, **County Treasurer Christy Khoury**, **Commissioner Precinct 4 Jody Chump** and **Judge Janice Menard** were officially sworn in. **Thibodeaux** was administered the oath for a record fifth time by **Dist. Judge Pat Clark**. On that day **Thibodeaux** became the longest serving county judge. **Judge Sid Caillavet** served two eight year terms, 16 years total, at two different times. ******Judge Thibodeaux** also has the distinction of being the first **Orange County** judge to install a **Republican** commissioner. **** A speedy recovery to **Rosalie Clark** who is in a **Beaumont** hospital. **Judge Clark** left her long enough to swear in **Thibodeaux** and **Peck**. **Rosalie** recently had her gall bladder removed but is suffering with staff infection in a leg. She's one of our favorite people, one of **Frank** and **Sarah Todaro's** twin girls. ***Also best wishes for a speedy recovery to **Dorothy Harmon**, who was in the hospital in **Orange** but transferred to **Houston**. She developed an infection with her pacemaker and a valve. **** **Bobby Cormier** broke his ankle getting off of a tractor. His foot went one way, his weight the other. **** We will get to see two **Orange County** boys in the playoffs. **Bridge City's Matt Bryant** and the **Atlanta Falcons** will host **Pittsburgh** after a one week bye. **West Orange-Stark** star **Earl Thomas** and the **Seahawks** will host the **Saints**. That will cause mixed feelings here because many people are **New Orleans** fans. ******Carlos Vasek** and family attended the **Rose Bowl** to witness the big **TCU** 21-19 win over **Wisconsin**. ****The next big bowl game with local interest is the **Cotton Bowl** between **Texas A&M** and **LSU** on Jan. 6. All the **Cajun** boys I've talked to are wanting to bet on **LSU** but not give up any points. I'm not giving up on the **Aggies**. **** Also important to a lot of **South Louisiana Cajuns** is that after eight years, **Gov. Edward Edwards** will be released from prison. He will serve six months in a half way house, then will be a free man. Many feel the colorful governor was caught in a political trap that gave him a longer sentence than some murders and other more serious white-collar criminals. Like a good **Cajun**, he took his medicine and did the time without being a wimp. **** Special folks celebrating, **Commissioner Owen Burton**, celebrates on Jan. 3, **Chynna Withrow**, Jan. 5, **Lori Perry** and **John Callahan** Jan. 6. *** **Skipper Free**, turns 77 on Thursday, Jan. 6. **Skipper** was born in **Shangri La** on the day of Epiphany. She also was the first woman union barber and the first pregnant barber. She's lived a colorful life and enjoys it to its fullest. ******Lanston Fall** has his big day Jan. 8 ****Our buddy **Collin Slade Gros**, alias "Billy Jack," "Blue-Eyed Bill" will celebrate his 16th on Jan. 10. ****Happy anniversary to **Ray** and **Linda Leleux** who celebrate their 46th on Jan. 11. **** What difference **Commissioner Jody Crump**, a **Republican**, would make on the Court? Not much is my thought, just another conservative joining a conservative court. **** **Democrats** just as conservative as **Republicans**. Sometimes more so. You would be hard pressed to find any more conservative persons than **John Dubose**, **CPA**, **Owen Burton**, longtime businessman, **David Dubose**, businessman/ pharmacist and of course **Carl Thibodeaux**, **Orange County's** longest serving administrative county judge. You can't improve much on the job these gentlemen are doing.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

Last week we ran into two lovely **Donna Peterson's** at **Dr. Morbia's** office. **Morbias** has been taking care of **Peter** hearts for nearly 30 years. The elder **Donna** was having problems and was scheduled for additional test at hospital. **Donna Jr.**, now has a beautiful three-month-old daughter to go along with son **Victor** and daughter **Donna III**. As a family, the **Peter**son's are some of the nicest people I know. Visiting the **Gulf Coast Cardiac Clinic** this week is **Commissioner Kirk Roccaforte**. I had not realized **Kirk** also had **COVID-19**, along with **Judge Gothia** and **Commissioner Trahan**. **Commissioner Beachamp** seems to be the only court member who dodged the virus. ****We heard from **Judge Pat Clark** on New Years Day. It is always nice to hear from **Pat** anytime. We got in a conversation about the early mid-1950s. His dad, **Junior**, and I first met in 1950 when I was living with the **Joe Runnels** family. **Junior** and I worked in **Joe's** campaign for mayor and also in 1952 and 1953 for the **Allen Shivers** campaign. We put **Shivers** signs up all over the county. He won in 1950-52 and 54. **Joe** was close to **Tillman Frank**, who ran the **Louisiana Hayride**, and brought entertainment like **Claude King** and band to **Riverside**. **Pat**, his mom and dad, lived in **Riverside**. **Pat** was about 8-years-old and **Pete Runnels** was around 10-years-old. **Pat** recalled those days when both boys attended these rallies. He looks like

his dad but that is where the similarities stop. **Junior** was pure country, loud, brazen and backs down to nothing. A die-hard union man, his picture was featured in **Life** magazine once after knocking a guy's lights out. What a guy, a great character. **** A few folks we know celebrating their special day in the next few days. Our longtime buddy, one of a kind, **Skipper Free**, turns 87 on Jan. 6. I'm not sure what became of **Skipper**, maybe **Eddie** or someone who knows will let me know. ****Jan. 9, **Mike Collins**, who we have known over 50 years, has a birthday. We haven't heard from **Sue Collins'** little boy since he was in the car business. ****Jan. 8, **Lanston Fall**, who I coached in junior football back in the 1960's, is celebrating a birthday. We go back a long way with his late family and sister **Peggy**. Also celebrating are **Sean Brinson**, **Terry Gauthier** and **Heather Montagne**. ****Jan. 10, **Sandy Uzzel**, **Hunter's** mom, **Chuck's** better half, celebrates a birthday today. Celebrating also is longtime friend **Frank Skeeler** and everyone's buddy, **Collin Slade Gros**, "Billy Jack" to his **Papa**. ****Jan. 11, Happy 35th wedding anniversary to **Margie** and **Harry Stephens**. Hard to believe it's been that long. Best wishes for many happy, healthy years. ******Keith Wallace** and **Logan** went deer hunting in **Woodville**. We haven't heard any story about the deer **Logan** got and the one that got away. ****Our buddy **Sharon Bearden** is home overcoming **COVID**. He gets out of quarantine Tuesday. Since December 20, **Ms. Liz** has been in a **Clear Lake** hospital, also suffering with **COVID**. Plans are to try and move her to a breathing rehab facility. **Bearden** says while in lockdown he has been well taken care of thanks to friends and **Jim Sharon**. Our prayers are for **Liz** to soon recover and come home. ****We were pleased to have an outdoor visit from our friend, Port board member, **Carroll Holt**. He's a very interesting guy, with a great story. He treated us to his homemade "Bread and Butter" pickles and pure vanilla, made from vanilla beans from **Madagascar**. **Carroll** has been making pure vanilla for years. At age 86, he lets no grass grow under his feet. He's a doer. ****Over the last few days, I've heard from three of my **Republican** friends who want to stay off the record. One said he has voted for **President Trump** four times, but of late **Trump** has crossed the line. He should not have taken a direct hit at state **Republican** office holder in an attempt to get him to fudge the vote count. "He knows he lost, now he's hurting the country and we really do need to heal." Another displayed disappointment in **Congressman Dr. Babin** for signing on to the crazy protest of the **Electoral College** vote Wednesday. "There is no good reason for him to step off in that slop, I'm disappointed, it makes him appear to be one of the real crazy bunch." Another **Babin** supporter said, "He must not be planning to run again because this is a bad move." I believe it changes voter's image of him but so does his track record. He's made himself a part of a failed government, with a lot of death and suffering, a record deficit of \$3.3 trillion, and a record national debt of \$27 trillion. Now **Babin** has joined attacking states rights that **Republicans** have always championed until **Trump** came along and discarded all conservative principles. ******Kevin Nunes** and coatless **Jim Jordan** will be presented the **Medal of Freedom** by **Trump** next week. What a joke, a diminishing of the award. What about **Sean Hannity**, he carried **Trump's** water and trash for over four years on **FOX**. ****Crazy **Texas A.G. Ken Paxton** organized and filed a supreme court case against **GOP** states. **GOP** **Texas** chairman **Allen West** wanted 13 states to succeed from the union. So much for state rights.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

It had come on the Christmas season and **Norris Boudreaux** him, had been having a conscience problem about not going to church. It had been many years since he had gone to Confession him. He brought himself to **St. Theresa Catholic Church** and **Norris** him went into da Confessional box. He noticed dat inside was a fully equipped bar, with **Coors** draft on tap. On da utta wall was a big selection of da finest **Cuban** cigars.

Farter Lebove came in him.

Norris say, "Farter, forgive me, it's been a long, long time since I've been to Confession me but I must first admit dat da Confessional box, it's much more inviting dese days."

Da priest him replied, "Norris, get youself out of there, you on my side."

C'EST TOUT THERE WENT THE JUDGE

We were pleased to receive an e-mail from newly retired **Dist. Judge Dennis Powell**. I don't believe he will mind me running some of his note.

December 30, 2020, submitted by Dennis Powell.

I have to say that I was delighted to discover that I could read **The Record e-edition** of my favorite newspaper while sitting in our new **Hill Country** home. The very first thing I would read each week, usually sitting at my desk before starting the day's Court docket, was **Down life's Highway**. This morning, sitting in the dark on my back porch, waiting for the deer feeder to go off and waiting for the storm to roll in, was no exception: "Sixty-Six Years of 'Hanging on to Each Other.'" I thoroughly enjoyed it, thanks for sharing your life story, past and present, with me and with all of your readers. Thanks also for your kind words some months ago in the gracious story about my retirement. I will start my last hearing of my 20 years as the **163rd District Judge** at 1:30 today, by **Zoom** of course. Little bitter-sweet, little scary, I worked since I was 14, can't envision what the next season of retirement will look like. And **COVID** has certainly complicated our **Hill Country** transition. Time will tell. I'm glad to know I can take you with me as we spend **Wednesday** mornings together on the pack porch. Well, feeder went off and 12 deer chomping down 35 yards from me. Better turn my attention to them so they don't feel neglected. **Lucille's** twin fawns are about grown up. I'm happy to come along, knowing "it won't do me no harm." A happy New Year and happy anniversary to **Roy** and **MeMe**.

Signed, used to be Judge Powell, now just Dennis.

(Editor's note:) We're proud of **Dennis**, a home boy who got to live his dream. A kid from a not so high, middle class, who worked hard, got a law degree and earned a spot as **163rd District Judge**, where he retired with high respect from the **Bar** members. We wish him and family the very best. We can just envision what sounds like a great layout in the **Hill Country**. "Old **Dennis** will do to ride the range with." That's what **Sharon Bearden** just told me. ****Thanks for your time and readership over all these years. Pray for better days ahead. **Take care and God bless.**

Deaths & Memorials

Irona Bridget "Tibby" Mazzola, 96 Orange, Texas

Irona Bridget "Tibby" Mazzola went peacefully to heaven on December 30, 2020, at the young age of 96 with her loving family surrounding her. Born in Church Point, LA on November 1, 1924 to Clement Thibodeaux & Eliza Cortez Thibodeaux, she was the 5th in her family of nine children and was a hard-working young girl. Upon graduating high school in Lawtell, LA as salutatorian, she attended the University of Southern Louisiana, became a Licensed Practical Nurse, and moved to Orange to work at Francis Ann Litcher Hospital around 1945. She married Benny Mazzola, Jr. in February of 1947 and together they had seven children. Tibby is preceded in death by her parents; her 8 siblings; her husband Benny Jr. of 51 years; one of her 4 daughters, Virginia (Gigi) Luna; 2 of her 3 sons, Dr. Benny (Beno) Mazzola III, and Dr. Steven D. Mazzola. She was a great wife, mother, mother-in-law, daughter, aunt, and sister, and was blessed with having so many friends who loved her. The love she gave and received is testament to the special person she was to all who knew her. Though she endured more than her share of grief during her life, Tibby remained a true and loyal follower of Christ. As the ultimate mom, grandmother, and great-grandmother, her home was always buzzing with family, children, and friends during the many gatherings throughout the years. She was a gourmet cook, a comedian, a "stunt-driver", and with her tender heart, she could make people laugh and cry during the same conversation. She was a vivacious, joyful lady who loved being around her family, friends and her home was always open, and she never met a stranger. She routinely prepared meals for others and generously supported numerous missions and charities. She was the "Matriarch" of our family and was affectionately known as "Matey". Tibby was a member of St. Mary Catholic Church and shared her faith as a religious education teacher as well as Eucharistic Minister at the hospital and nursing homes. Additionally, she was a member of Catholic Daughters of America - Court St. Cecilia, the Shalom Prayer Group, and she helped organize and establish both the St. Vincent DePaul Society and Orange Christian Services. Those left to cherish, uphold and honor her memory are: son Gilbert Mazzola and wife Debbie; daughters Liz Mazzola Oliva, Anita Mazzola-Layne and



Irona Mazzola

husband Jim, Gail van der Maas and husband Paul; daughters-in-law Linda Kay Mazzola and Michele Smith, all of Orange. Also her nineteen grandchildren are: Bridget Luna Trawhon, Benny Mazzola IV, Brian Mazzola, Amanda Mazzola Goss, Joe "Buppy" Luna III, Brady Mazzola, Lisa Mazzola Mathews, Emily Mazzola, Leslie Mazzola Hogan, Steve Mazzola, Jr., Kathryn Oliva, Adam Mazzola, Richard Drouillard, Jr., Lauren Mazzola Hogan, Jude Layne, Felicity Layne French, Marleen Hamoen, Yvonne Kroon, and Paul van der Maas, Jr., Tibby also leaves twenty-seven great grandchildren, and numerous nieces & nephews from both the Thibodeaux and Mazzola families. Serving as Pallbearers are grandsons Benny Mazzola IV, Brian Mazzola, Brady Mazzola, Joe Luna III, Steve Mazzola, Jr., Adam Mazzola, Jude Layne, Richard Drouillard, Jr., and Paul Van der Maas, Jr. Honorary Pallbearers are Henry Goss, Dr. Justin Hogan, Brandon Hogan, Bryan Mathews, and Greg Trahan. The family expresses sincere appreciation to Tibby's great niece Telisse Green for her exceptional and loving care over the past four months. And we send a special thank you to the Texas Total Care Hospice team for their exemplary care of mom, particularly, Dianne Parrott, RN and Debra Coolidge, Aide, for their love and support of mom during her last eight months of life. You all are blessings to us. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks for memorial contributions to be made to the St. Mary School Foundation, 912 Cherry Avenue, Orange, TX 77630. Services are under the direction of Claybar Funeral Home of Orange and will be held Tuesday January 5, 2021, at St. Mary Church, 912 Cherry Avenue, Orange, TX as follows: 12pm-1pm Visitation & gathering of family & friends 1-1:30pm Eulogies, obit reading & remembrances, 1:30pm Rosary, 2pm Funeral Mass. Burial will immediately follow at St. Mary Cemetery, Meeks Drive, Orange, TX and a reception for family and friends at St. Mary Parish Hall. Face Masks are requested out of deference to the vulnerable. Thank You.

Delore "Junior" Guidry, Jr., 62 Orange, Texas

Delore "Junior" Guidry, Jr., 62, of Orange, Texas, passed away on January 1, 2021, in Beaumont, Texas. Born in Orange, Texas, on June 21, 1958, he was the son of Delore Guidry, Sr. and Clorine (Benoit) Guidry. He worked as a carpenter for many years. Junior will be missed by all who knew and loved him. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clorine and Delore Guidry, Sr.; his brother, Harry Guidry; his nephew, James Guidry; and his brother-in-law, Conny Babb. He is survived by his children, Joseph Guidry of Orange, Berry Guidry of Bridge City, and Paul Guidry of California; his grandchildren, Harper Elise, Vincent Corbin, Brianna, Sta-



Delore Guidry, Jr.

cie, Kathie, and Autumn; his sisters, Priscilla Babb, Wanda Cross, Diana Malone and husband Thomas, and Marion Mahon and husband Milton; his brothers, Kenneth Guidry and Larry Guidry; as well as numerous nieces and nephews. Cremation is under the direction of Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. The family will hold a service at a later date.



Lonnie Claybar, left, Justice of the Peace Precinct 1, joins Brad Frye, Justice of the Peace Precinct 3, and Jeremiah Gunter, Justice of the Peace Precinct 2, at the Orange County Courthouse after they were sworn in to their offices Jan. 1 following their elections in November, 2020. All three had been serving unexpired terms of their predecessors. RECORD PHOTO: Dave Rogers

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Keeping those New Year's resolutions

Paul Schattenberg
AgriLife Today

Having realistic goals and expectations, especially with the limitations brought on by the pandemic, and being emotionally ready to change, are essential to keeping New Year's resolutions, said a Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service expert.

"Three reasons why people don't keep their New Year's resolutions are that the resolution isn't realistic, the person expects an unrealistic benefit, or the person wasn't prepared to make the change," said Jenna Anding, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension nutrition specialist, Bryan-College Station.

"Three reasons why people don't keep their New Year's resolutions are that the resolution

isn't realistic, the person expects an unrealistic benefit, or the person wasn't prepared to make the change," said Jenna Anding, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension nutrition specialist, Bryan-College Station.

Anding said most adults tend to shy away from resolutions and those who take up the challenge are more likely to be younger or middle-aged.

"Statistics also suggest older adults who do make resolution are not very successful at keeping them," she noted. "But that's not to say resolutions don't work. In fact, those who make resolutions tend to have more success at changing behaviors as compared to those who don't make resolutions."

Some of the top New Year's resolutions include:

- Eating healthier/losing

weight.

- Getting more exercise.
- Spending less/saving more.
- Being more organized.
- Dedicating more time with friends and family.
- Finding more "me" time.
- Quitting smoking or drinking.

Anding said one way to approach successful resolution making is for people to first list the three behaviors they most want to change.

"Such behaviors could be eating better, getting more exercise, saving more money or working on personal relationships," she said. "Look at the behaviors you have identified and choose the one you most want to concentrate on improving. Then take a close and realistic look at the behavior you have chosen, then think if a specific

goal that would reflect where you would like to be through modifying that behavior. Write down that final goal, making sure it is both realistic and achievable."

The next step is to make a plan and come up with a series of smaller, attainable goals leading toward the final goal, she said.

"For example, if the goal is to run a marathon but right now you can't run to the end of the block, consider starting with a more realistic goal of walking for 30 minutes a day three to five days a week. Once that's a regular habit, set another goal to run a 5K within three to six months and then a 10K, gradually working up to a half-marathon and then a full marathon."

Anding said it is important to remember achieving a final goal does not have to fit into a rigid timetable.

"Just keep planning and

meeting those mini-goals as steps toward the final goal," she said.

However, she said, people should write down and commit to a specific date on which to begin their desired behavior change.

"Pick a date that is important, significant or memorable and put it on your calendar," she said. "It doesn't have to be the exact start of a new year. Once you pick your date, plan how you will accomplish your goal. In other words, identify and write down those specific actions you will need to take to be successful."

Anding noted the situation with COVID-19 might impose a challenge in keeping some New Year's resolutions for 2021 more difficult, especially at the first of the year.

"People likely will continue to stay at home more, which could lead to more trips to the refrig-

erator. Gyms or studios where people can exercise may continue to be closed or limited in capacity. Don't let this dissuade you. Set out a plan for eating healthier meals at home and cutting down on junk food. And instead of going to the gym, exercise at home or go on a long walk or bicycle ride."

Improving eating habits is usually one of the top New Year's resolutions, but that resolution too should also be taken in small bites, Anding said.

"It's best to break this into mini-goals such as committing to eating one more vegetable or fruit each day or switching sugar-sweetened beverages to water or other healthier options."

Anding said there will invariably be challenges on the journey toward meeting both smaller goals and your ultimate New Year's resolution goal.

"So, it's important to think ahead and be flexible."

ORANGE COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

When Jesus Shows Up In The Storm (Matt. 14:22-33)

Pastor Charles Empey
Columnist
For The Record

When Jesus shows up in your storm, He'll be walking on water. The storm had been raging and had come to a tempest that it appeared all was lost, including the disciples lives. They had done everything to overcome, but nothing was working. It was now to only wait until the end. So, where was God? Why what appeared to be a delay? Where was the concern for their lives? Am I going to die?

Have you had these times in your life? Maybe recently with Covid or a loved one with it. So many have ran to the door of death with it while others ran to it and beyond into the arms of a waiting Savior.

We must see what God's Word reveals to us in this great story of Jesus coming in the midst of a storm walking on the water to the deliverance of His disciples from drowning.

When you are God's child, He always knows right where you are, even in the midst of a storm where no one can see you nor



Pastor Charles Empey

reach you except Him. Darkness fills the air with thousands of uncertainties, but the most important One knows right where you are and is coming. You can't see Him for the surrounding storm of life you are in, but He is coming. His timing is perfect and as powerful as His walking on water. So, He knows where you are in your storm.

Then we see that He is personally involved in our deliverance while walking on water. He called Peter by name to get out of the boat and walk to Him. That is a call into the midst of our storm to not fear because we can operate in the sovereign power of Christ.

Look also at how He handles our weakness in faith. Peter nor you nor I are perfect in our faith and power, but always reliant upon His ultimate power to walk on water in the midst of our storm. Peter suddenly looked upon himself in the midst of his storm, looking away from Jesus. His power to overcome became once again a bit shaky and down he was sinking in his storm of life, but Jesus always takes into account our inability to overcome our storm. Oh, didn't I tell you that? This is not an account in the Bible to show how YOU overcome. It is an account about the Only One who can overcome. He walks on water.

Then we see Jesus, the overcomer, stepping up into the exact midst of the problem, the storm. He comes onboard of your life and takes the lead in yours and my deliverance. He steps to the bow of our life and calls for the storm to stop and the waters to be calm and once again it is smooth sailing for a while. The sickness, the financial hardship, the family prob-

lems, work problems and you name it are once again in check at the hand of the One who walks on water. We must pay attention in the storm for He who will walk on the water of your storm. The disciples were alert to their surroundings while helpless in them. They were watching for deliverance and HE showed walking on water.

Oh, and sometimes He steps in to take the power of walking on water to walk you or I into His heavenly presence leaving this old world of storms behind, but His power to walk on water is obviously the sovereign power of all power and as when we trusted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we passed from death into life (Jn. 4:25). He will duplicate this great sovereign power the day He steps into one of our storms and simply lifts us in His hand into His holy presence, Heaven. Storms no more. Threat of death no more. Sorrows from the storms no more. Ultimately Jesus' power to walk on water in the midst of our storms of life has the ultimate ability...delivering His children

out of the clutches of death and eternal life comes clear. We live forever with Him.

Embrace 2021 with this promise as His child. Watch for Him throughout the year to come to you in your trials walk-

ing on the water. Don't let trials and tribulation blur your view of Jesus coming to your rescue.

Charles Empey is the Pastor of Cove Baptist Church, Orange, TX.

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Trophy fish no accident

CAPT. DICKIE COLBURN
For The Record



Dickie Colburn

Okay...you only have 359 days left in 2021 to catch the largest bass of your life and you are burning one of them today. The game changed for bass fishermen in 1986 when limits were reduced to protect the resource and ever since that day, "catch and release" has become the accepted norm. More importantly...it has worked even better than anticipated!

While it was initially painful for anglers that had built their reputations on consistently returning to the dock with limits, goals were suddenly changed, but most of those elite anglers proved to still be elite anglers. While bass were no longer the main course at the next fish fry, they quickly attained star status for tournament fishermen.

The key to making this fishing revolution work so well was "buy-in" on the part of the fishermen. No one was really bent out of shape so long as everyone had to play by the same rules. In truth, reduced limits did not preclude the next fish fry. They only minimized the number of freezer burned filets that were eventually thrown away.

The coveted "plus" was that within a year or two, folks were more often getting swings at bigger bass than they had ever caught on their favorite fishing holes. Power plant lakes started giving up thick shouldered double-digit bass that matched their cousins in Georgia and Florida and Florida strain stockings quickly took hold on lakes like Fork, Toledo Bend and Sam Rayburn.

For thirteen years prior to these changes, I had guided and tournament fished exclusively on Toledo Bend. In all of that time, I never caught an eight pound bass or met anyone that had. We fished our way through tons of bass, but most of them never lived to make the same mistake twice!

Long lines of anglers that once waited in the pre-dawn chill at a lake like Monticello are all but forgotten as the opportunity to catch a double digit bass now exists all across the state. Orange County anglers are less than an hour and a half drive from two of the top ranked big bass sanctuaries in the states.

The prime time of the year for catching your life-time best is upon us as egg-laden sows are already making their move to secure staging areas to begin the spawn. This is not a numbers game unless you are looking at the scales.

COLBURN Page 2B

2021 NFL 'Wild Card' Playoffs Begin

KAZ'S KORNER
JOE KAZMAR
For The Record



Joe Kazmar

This is my annual National Football League "Wild Card" Playoff column and I had no idea what the Las Vegas odds were on the six games being played this weekend.

Then a brainstorm hit me. Why not get some help from our newest resident Alexa. She supposedly knows everything.

So, I asked her, "Alexa, please give me the odds on this weekend's NFL playoffs."

She replied in her usual sweet voice, "Why, Mr. Joe, I'm waiting for your Korner to come out and tell ME the betting lines, so I can relay them to whoever asks me for them."

I guess I'll just have to do my usual guessing on the odds and the projected winners just like I have for the last 50 years.

Seriously, though, this was a weird football season for the NFL, which managed to play every scheduled game, but mostly without the teams full 53-man rosters. In fact, some teams—like the Dallas Cowboys and perhaps the New England Patriots—are sitting home watching the playoff action because of injuries and the coronavirus pandemic.

In fact, the Cowboys had an outside chance of getting into the playoffs as the NFC East Division champions if they beat the Giants in New York (which they didn't) and Washington (whatever their name is This Week lost to Philadelphia (which they didn't). Consequently, the Dallas Cowboys are home watching the playoffs on TV just like you and I will be.

The Kansas City Chiefs enter the playoffs as the No. 1 seed due to their best 14-2 record. They lost 38-21 to



The largest point spread this weekend belongs to the New Orleans Saints, who are favored by 9 1/2 points over the fortunate Chicago Bears, who sort of backed into the playoffs with an 8-8 record. PHOTO ABOVE: New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees.

the Los Angeles Chargers in Sunday's season finale, but sat out many of their impact players like quarterback Patrick Mahomes, tight end Travis Kelce and several others. They will play the lowest-seeded team in two weeks.

The same is true for the Green Bay Packers, who played most of their regulars because they needed a win to be the top-seeded team in the NFC.

This weekend features several "grudge matches" in this wild card playoff round with the Baltimore Ravens at the Tennessee Titans leading the parade.

If you'll remember in last year's playoffs, the Titans dethroned the Super Bowl-favored Ravens, knocking them out of the playoffs and then com-

ing back and turning the trick again 30-24 in October during the 2020 regular season.

But Tennessee didn't have a playoff berth until Sunday against the feeble Houston Texans, who wouldn't go away and made the Titans kick a 50-yard, game-winning field goal to edge out Indianapolis for the AFC South Division title. Tennessee will have their backs against the wall Sunday with Baltimore being a slight 3 1/2-point favorite.

Another big rivalry this weekend will be Cleveland at Pittsburgh Sunday at 7:15 p.m. a week after these two teams finished the regular season

KAZ'S KORNER Page 3B



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Fishing Families: Staying away from "Us vs. Them"

OUTDOORS CAPT. CHUCK UZZLE For The Record

If I asked you to name a good old fashioned rivalry it probably wouldn't take you very long to name off a few contenders. Family rivalries like the Hatfield's and McCoy's jump to the forefront at the mere mention of a rivalry.

These families had epic grudges and hatred towards one another like few have ever seen. Sports rivalries such as The University of Texas and Texas A&M are historic and tradition rich. The great outdoors has plenty of contenders for great rivalries as well.

Gun hunters versus Bow hunters are always entertaining as the debate for who is the better hunter rages continually. Live bait versus artificial is a white hot topic that spurs many a heated debate and an occasional bait camp brawl as well. Boat fishermen versus waders has a devoted and boisterous fan base that is not afraid to speak their mind when defending their positions both literally and figuratively.

Here on Sabine lake we have the Texas versus Louisiana battle that always ruffles feathers when the subject of limits and licenses comes up as a topic for conversation. One more great divide amongst sportsmen that runs deep, but is not quite as volatile or potentially violent, is the classic rift between conventional anglers and their flyfishing counter-



Chuck Uzzle

parts. Each side for whatever reason harbors a very preconceived and stereotypical notion of what the other side represents and I live right in the middle of that great divide.

Recently I was fortunate enough to speak at one of the monthly meetings of The Texas Flyfishers of Houston and I brought up the legendary "Us vs. Them" scenario to see where that topic went. Most, if not all, in attendance agreed that in order to promote the sport of flyfishing it was a must for each angler to do a better job of recruiting conventional anglers to the sport.

The only way the sport grows is to bring in more people who enjoy the same style pursuits even if they use different methods. The common denominator between the flyfisherman and the conventional angler is that each one wants to put a bend in their rod with a fish on the other end. Period.

I personally take great satisfaction in introducing new anglers to the sport and I have done just that for many years. The initial experience is so important because like the saying goes "you never get a second chance to make a first impression". With that thought in mind I usually wait until I have the best set of circumstances before I even attempt the "conver-



sion".

There are a couple of prime times to introduce a new angler to the sport and few are better than late summer and fall when the fish gang up in big schools and eat just about anything that hits the water. The constant bites are just what the doctor ordered so a new angler can get a real feel for exactly what happens on the strike. I usually tell folks this is similar to teaching a person to hit a baseball and putting them in a batting cage because it's no big deal if you miss one when there is another coming right behind it. The last thing I want to do is ask a new flyfisherman to stand up on the bow, make a 1000 casts, and not get bit. Talk about leave a bad taste in your mouth, no thanks.

On most occasions I wait until we have a good setup and a school of fish that isn't going anywhere before I break out the flyrod and offer up a little encouragement. Knowing that the fish aren't going anywhere anytime soon makes the whole exper-

ience much less stressful for the newbie and that much more enjoyable for me. Hungry school trout are exactly what the doctor ordered for the first timer, it's the perfect scenario.

Seeing accomplished conventional anglers pick up the flyrod and have success immediately is always fun. The look on their face as they discover a new style of enjoying their favorite sport is priceless.

On a couple of outings I've had beginning flyfishermen hit the "Texas jackpot" as a bruiser redfish decides to come crash the trout party and take off with the fly and head to parts unknown. Watching the fly line peel off in the blink of an eye and then the backing begin to disappear often leaves the new fly angler with the wide eyed look of both disbelief and exhilaration all at the same time. Most new fly anglers are really happy to see their line leave in hurry while attached to a redfish but that look quickly goes away once they realize a fly reel doesn't offer up a 7 to 1 ratio for line retrieval. All the work that goes into landing one of those big redfish makes the memory of the adventure that much more vivid and serves to only draw the angler back for more. It's usual-

ly not long after that when the new fly angler takes the plunge and purchases some gear and begins to experiment on their own. And so it begins, a new obsession focused on the same trophy.

Now in my little part of the world between the conventional angler and the fly angler there is plenty of room and I encourage everyone to come and "visit". Neither style of fishing is the end be all versions that surpasses all others, it's merely another tool or another club in the bag if you will to enjoy the sport we love even more. I am perfectly happy and content to fish in just about any way from soaking live bait, wading with artificials, sightcasting in shallow water, or casting flies because they all are enjoyable to me and they each have particular advantages that help make me a better all around fisherman.

As far as the "Us vs. Them" mentality goes that so often invades our sport all I can say is that's the worst thing in the world that can happen to outdoorsmen as a whole. The "divide and conquer" theory is being used by those opposed to outdoor pursuits and don't think for a minute that those whack jobs won't try and go after the sport of fishing. Just because a particular group of people uses a different method to legally catch fish we, as a group, need to support each other so the "anti's" won't have a chance.

Both sides of the flyfisherman vs. conventional angler can learn from one another and become better anglers as well. I'm not saying we need to hold hands and sing "Kumbaya", I'm just saying before you rule out a style you need to try it first. More often than not you'll be glad you did.

Colburn From Page 1B

When you are seeing 65 degree days in January you had better get your gear in order. Northerners can slow the spawn temporarily, but as a rule those staging fish do not retreat to deeper water. They simply bury up in the nearest cover and wait it out.

I have always believed that the spawn is irreversible once we start seeing longer days. The extra hour or so of sunlight may help warm the water, but there is something more magical about that phenomenon than increased surface temperatures.

While I truly hope that you will catch and release the largest bass of your life this year, I mention all of this because trout fishermen now find themselves coping with the same change in order to

bolster the resource. The one difference thus far has been mandating that everyone play by the same rules.

More restrictive limits proved to be effective very quickly on the lower coast, but there was still little or no "buy-in" at all as you moved up the coast. The single biggest complaint and one that certifies the lack of respect given the speckled trout was, "It's not worth going fishing if you can only keep five trout."

I don't think this mind set will completely change until more trout fishermen are getting more swings at trophy trout. Because smaller trout tend to school and feed in such prolific numbers, the average angler is still more concerned with an easy limit

than looking to battle a trophy trout.

Capt. Chuck was recently recounting past trips in his column that included duping seven and eight pound trout on a regular basis. Make no mistake about it, Chuck and his clients spent countless hours in search of those big trout, but they were there to be caught and the exciting payoff was unmatched.

Those trout are now missing through no fault of the anglers, but those same anglers are the ones that can make it all happen again. As much as I hope you catch the bass of your dreams this year, I hope you will do your part in making Sabine Lake a trophy lake again!

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Toyota ShareLunker Program launches 35th Season this weekend

Staff Report For The Record

AUSTIN – The turning of the calendar to January signals the beginning of the 35th season of the Toyota ShareLunker program. The year-round Toyota ShareLunker program offers four levels of participation for catching bass over 8 pounds or 24 inches in Texas.

“We are excited to kick off another ShareLunker season,” said Toyota ShareLunker Program Coordinator Kyle Brooks. “Not only for the selective spawning and stocking of these world-class offspring, but also to help gather vital catch and genetic data to help our fisheries biologists better manage trophy bass populations

throughout the great fisheries of Texas.”

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.

Kaz's Korner From Page 1B

with the Browns winning 24-22 with several of the Steelers like quarterback Ben Rothlisberger sitting out. But the game may not be as close in the playoffs with Pittsburgh favored by four points.

Cleveland has been absent from the playoffs since 2002—the longest active drought—and enjoyed their first 11-game winning record since 1994 thanks to 1,000-plus rushing yard seasons from the Browns two running backs Nick Chubb and Kareem Hunt.

Seattle and the Los Angeles Rams should be a grudge match, too, with both teams coming from the NFC West Division. The two teams split their two games during the regular season and meet in Seattle Saturday at 3:40 p.m. with the Seahawks favored by 4½ points.

The other AFC playoff game features Indianapolis at Buffalo where the high-scoring Bills are a whopping seven-point favorite. Buffalo finished the season with 501

points, second only to Green Bay's 509. It was the second-most points scored in Buffalo franchise history.

The largest point spread this weekend belongs to the New Orleans Saints, who are favored by 9 ½ points over the fortunate Chicago Bears, who sort of backed into the playoffs with an 8-8 record. The two teams meet Sunday at 3:40 p.m. in the Superdome.

Chicago was pummeled 35-16 by Green Bay but earned the final wild card when the Arizona Cardinals lost to the LA Rams 18-7 Sunday.

Brady kept his streak alive by never missing a playoff as he led Tampa Bay to an 11-5 record and a wild card berth against Washington, whose 7-9 record made it an eight-point underdog Saturday at 7:15 p.m. in the nation's capital.

KWICKIES...It's a crying shame that the Houston Texans flopped so badly this sea-

son, despite the magnificent year quarterback Deshaun Watson put together. The two big factors in the Texans' 2020 demise are the bone-headed trades former coach Bill O'Brien made which led to an 0-4 start and his firing, and the coronavirus, which affected every NFL team.

Randy Crouch announced this week he is retiring from Little Cypress Mauriceville High School at the end of the 20-21 school year. Crouch spent 55 years of either playing or coaching. He was head coach and athletic director of the Battlin' Bears for the last 12 years and he was an assistant for 4 years. Compiling a 52-69 record in his 12 years and 34-38 in District Play, making the play offs for 6 seasons. Crouch was an offensive lineman and named one of the top 50 All Time football players at Louisiana Tech after being a high school All American at Sulphur High School in 1971.

Texas A&M's 24 points scored in the fourth period Saturday night against North Carolina were the most

scored in the final quarter of the Orange Bowl since Oklahoma did it in 1958.

And speaking of the Aggies' impressive 41-27 Orange Bowl victory, it gave Head Coach Jimbo Fisher a 3-0 record in a bowl game for the Aggies. He had a 5-2 bowl record at Florida State.

If the Dallas Cowboys had gotten into the 2021 NFL

playoffs, quarterback Andy Dalton would have collected a \$1 million bonus for the feat.

Tennessee Titans tremendous running back Derrick Henry, who went over the 2,000 rushing yards barrier, is only the eighth player in NFL history to accomplish that feat.

JUST BETWEEN US...

KAZ'S FEARLESS FORECAST

2021 NFL "Wild Card" Playoff Games This Weekend

AFC CONFERENCE

- **BUFFALO (13-3) over INDIANAPOLIS (11-5) 12:05 p.m. Sat. at Buffalo (CBS).**
- **BALTIMORE (11-5) over TENNESSEE (11-5) 12:05 p.m. Sun. at Tennessee (ABC/ESPN).**
- **PITTSBURGH (12-4) over CLEVELAND (11-5) 7:15 p.m. Sun. at Pittsburgh (NBC).**

NFC CONFERENCE

- **SEATTLE (12-4) over LOS ANGELES RAMS (10-6) 3:40 p.m. Sat. at Seattle (Fox).**
- **TAMPA BAY (11-5) over WASHINGTON (7-9) 7:15 p.m. Sat. at Washington (NBC).**
- **NEW ORLEANS (12-4) over CHICAGO (8-8) 3:40 p.m. Sun. at New Orleans (CBS).**

don't know whether it's a coincidence or factual, but since I began writing this column more than half a century ago, it seems that our state's two main schools—Texas A&M and the University of Texas—fires their head football coach whenever the other school is doing well. It just happened in Austin Sunday when “the big money people” decided to get rid of Tom Herman, despite having four winning seasons but no Big 12 championships and replacing him with Steve Sarkisian, who had been head coach at Washington and Southern Cal. The price for making the move was a \$15 million buyout of Herman's contract. The same thing happened to Orange native R.C. Slocum a couple of decades ago, who was and still is the Texas Aggies' winningest coach. They gave him a nice “golden parachute,” too, and until this season A&M was never a team to be reckoned with among the nation's elite college football teams.



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\$3.9M project on self-deleting genes takes aim at mosquito-borne diseases



Olga Kuchment
Texas A&M AgriLife

To control mosquito populations and prevent them from transmitting diseases such as malaria, many researchers are pursuing strategies in mosquito genetic engineering. A new Texas A&M AgriLife Research project aims to enable temporary “test runs” of proposed genetic changes in mosquitoes, after which the changes remove themselves from the mosquitoes’ genetic code.

The project’s first results were published on Dec. 28 in Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B, titled “Making gene drive biodegradable.”

Zach Adelman, Ph.D., and Kevin Myles, Ph.D., both professors in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Department of Entomology are the principal investigators. Over five years, the team will receive \$3.9 million in funding from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases to test and fine-tune the self-deleting gene technology.

“People are wary of transgenes spreading in the environment in an uncontrolled manner. We feel that ours is a strategy to potentially prevent that from happening,” Adelman said. “The idea is, can we program a transgene to remove itself? Then, the gene won’t persist in the environment.”

“What it really comes down to is, how do you test a gene drive in a real-world scenario?” he added. “What if a problem emerges?

We think ours is one possible way to be able to do risk assessment and field testing.”

A crucial target for mosquito control

Many genetic engineering proposals revolve around inserting into mosquitoes a select set of new genes along with a “gene drive.” A gene drive is a genetic component that forces the new genes to spread in the population.

“A number of high-profile publications have talked about using a gene drive to control mosquitoes, either to change them so they can’t transmit malaria parasites anymore, or to kill off all the females so the population dies out,” Adelman said.

An often-voiced worry is that such genetic changes could carry unintended or harmful consequences.

One plan makes the cut

In the project’s first publication, the colleagues describe three ways for an introduced genetic change to remove itself after a designated period of time. The time period could, for instance, be 20 generations of mosquitoes, or about a year. The team modeled how the genes would spread among mosquitoes based on generation times and parameters of an average mosquito’s life. Of the three methods, the team has chosen one to pursue

further.

This method takes advantage of a process all animals use to repair damaged DNA, Adelman said. Inside cell nuclei, repair enzymes search for repeated genetic sequences around broken DNA strands. The repair enzymes then delete what’s between the repeats, he said.

So, Adelman and Myles’ team plans to test in fruit flies and mosquitoes a gene drive, a DNA-cutting enzyme and a small repeat of the insect’s own DNA.

Once the introduced enzyme cuts the DNA, the insect’s own repair tools should jump into action. The repair tools will cut out the genes for the gene drive and the other added sequences. At least, that’s what should happen in theory.

Failure is not just an option, it’s part of the plan

The team has already started lab work to test different gene drives and determine how long they last in flies and mosquitoes. The goal is to see a gene drive spread rapidly through a lab insect population. After a few generations, the added genes should disappear and the population should again consist of wild-type individuals.

“We assigned various rates of failure for how often the mechanism does not work as expected,” Adelman said. “The models predict that even with a very high rate of failure, if it succeeds just 5% of the time, that’s still enough to get rid of the transgene.”

EXHIBIT C-3

BRIDGE CITY INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES, AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2020

Data Control Codes	10 General Fund	Other Funds	Total Governmental Funds
REVENUES:			
5700 Total Local and Intermediate Sources	\$ 11,372,776	\$ 2,400,147	\$ 13,772,923
5800 State Program Revenues	15,235,608	437,670	15,673,278
5900 Federal Program Revenues	107,881	2,180,902	2,288,783
5020 Total Revenues	26,716,265	5,018,719	31,734,984
EXPENDITURES:			
Current:			
0011 Instruction	14,394,096	1,769,284	16,163,380
0012 Instructional Resources and Media Services	750,615	38,857	789,472
0013 Curriculum and Instructional Staff Development	297,522	46,897	344,419
0021 Instructional Leadership	198,660	-	198,660
0023 School Leadership	1,460,056	-	1,460,056
0031 Guidance, Counseling, and Evaluation Services	505,028	108,161	613,189
0033 Health Services	330,549	245	330,794
0034 Student (Pupil) Transportation	944,841	-	944,841
0035 Food Services	35,860	1,275,373	1,311,233
0036 Extracurricular Activities	848,999	394,948	1,243,947
0041 General Administration	1,265,318	3,110	1,268,428
0051 Facilities Maintenance and Operations	3,204,717	1,556	3,206,273
0052 Security and Monitoring Services	271,615	-	271,615
0053 Data Processing Services	247,384	-	247,384
Debt Service:			
0071 Principal on Long-Term Debt	-	601,581	601,581
0072 Interest on Long-Term Debt	-	737,786	737,786
0073 Bond Issuance Cost and Fees	-	2,000	2,000
6030 Total Expenditures	24,755,260	4,979,798	29,735,058
1100 Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over (Under) Expenditures	1,961,005	38,921	1,999,926
OTHER FINANCING SOURCES (USES):			
7911 Capital Related Debt Issued	-	6,005,000	6,005,000
7916 Premium or Discount on Issuance of Bonds	-	507,923	507,923
8940 Other (Uses) - Refunded Bonds	-	(6,395,000)	(6,395,000)
8949 Other (Uses) - Cost of Issuance	-	(109,762)	(109,762)
7080 Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-	8,161	8,161
EXTRAORDINARY ITEMS:			
7919 Extraordinary Item - Resource	384,066	-	384,066
1200 Net Change in Fund Balances	2,345,071	47,082	2,392,153
0100 Fund Balance - September 1 (Beginning)	15,641,787	1,364,939	17,006,746
3000 Fund Balance - August 31 (Ending)	\$ 17,986,858	\$ 1,412,041	\$ 19,398,899

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Beloved Coach Randy Crouch to retire



Little Cypress-Mauriceville Battlin' Bear Head Coach Randy Crouch lines out the offense during a practice session in 2015. RECORD FILE PHOTO: Lawrence Trimm

Staff Report For The Record

Little Cypress-Mauriceville Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Randy Crouch has announced his intentions to retire at the end of the 2020-2021 school year. According to Crouch, "After playing or coaching for 55 years, it's time. I want to thank Little Cypress-Mauriceville for the opportunity to be the AD and Head Coach for the past twelve years and for the four years I spent as an Assistant Coach. The support here is wonderful." He also thanked LCM Superintendent Stacey Brister for the leadership that she

has provided and is also appreciative of Dr. Pauline Hargrove, who is the retired Superintendent who hired him. Crouch also wants to recognize his wife, Dewana, who has been so supportive through the years.

Crouch was an Assistant Coach with LCM from 1994-1998, prior to going to WOS as Offensive Line Coach with the Mustangs. He returned to LCM in 2008 as Athletic Director and Head Football Coach for the Battlin' Bears. "The older you get, you realize how important it is to impact students in the right way, and LCM is great at that," he said. "I do hope that I am leaving the program better than it

was when I got here." Bears have made the playoffs six of those twelve years under the leadership of Coach Crouch.

Randy Crouch has had nu-

merous awards and recognitions through the years, including being named Coach of the Year by the Southeast Texas Coaches Association. He was also named to the Bulldog Football All-Century Team in August of 2001, honoring the 50 greatest players from the first 100 years of Louisiana Tech football and the 50th Anniversary team along with Terry Bradshaw, Roger Carr, John Causey and other notable standouts.

Superintendent Stacey Brister had this to say about him. "Coach Crouch has made a tremendous impact on our students, staff, and the community throughout the years. I appreciate all that he has given to our District to better our athletic programs. He has been an outstanding role model for our students and coaching staff. We will miss him and wish him the very best in his retirement."

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Adopt Healthier Digital Habits in 2021

(StatePoint) As we head into 2021, adults and kids alike may still be enjoying the excitement of digital devices received as gifts over the holidays. However, the new year is always a great time for a reset, so alongside those new devices, consider adopting some new digital habits.

Here are some great ideas for helping your family build healthier relationships with their digital devices:

- **Get healthy:** Not all screen time is wasted time. You can use your device in positive, productive ways that help your family work toward improved physical health. For example, a steps counter might encourage your family to move more or even take up running, while a yoga app can help guide your family through quick routines you can practice from the comfort of home.

- **Get smart:** Likewise, the members of your family can use their devices to exercise their minds. Encourage everyone to let their smartphones and tablets double function as e-readers, and to download apps that teach new skills and build knowledge. You can even try setting a goal as a family, such as learning a new language using the same app.

- **Schedule digital downtime:** Too much screen time is associated with poor quality sleep, increased anxiety and a range of other physical and mental health concerns, so be sure each day includes digital downtime. This is especially important if your family is working and learning from home right now. Make the most of these screen-free blocks by engaging in active play, moving, getting fresh air or spending quality time together.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **DONNIE L. SMITH**, Deceased, were issued on the **DECEMBER 21, 2020**, Cause No. **P18863**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **DONNA HOWLAND**.

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:
Donna Howland
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 **HARLOWE J. WRIGHT aka HARLOWE JEAN WRIGHT**, Deceased, were issued on **DECEMBER 9, 2020**, in Cause No. **P18899**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **RANDOLPH JOSEPH WRIGHT**.

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 16th day of December, 2020.

James R. Dunaway

James R. Dunaway
Attorney for:
Randolph Joseph Wright
State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100
jrdunaway@sbc-global.net

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **RUSSELL R. FITZPATRICK aka RUSSELL RAY FITZPATRICK**, Deceased, were issued on **DECEMBER 11, 2020**, in Cause No. **P18839**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **DONIS L. FITZPATRICK**.

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 29th day of December, 2020.

James R. Dunaway

James R. Dunaway
Attorney for:
Donis L. Fitzpatrick
State Bar No.: 06208000
P.O. Box 100
Orange, TX 77631-0100
jrdunaway@sbc-global.net

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: centerrecords@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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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. For more information, please call or text at 409-221-0704 or email lola-

bell.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 follow-

ing days and times: Second Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m., and Second Thursday of every month at 6:30 pm.

Alliance has moved to their temporary location at Fellowship Baptist in Bridge City located at 1965 Miller Dr. (Off 408) in Bridge City. For more information please call us at 409-735-8296.

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