



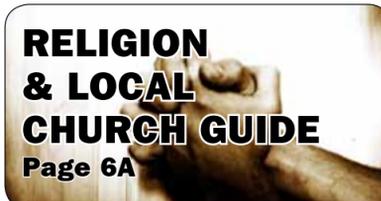
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The Penny Record

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Week of Wednesday, January 13, 2021

Orange County's man in Austin is state's too



Rep. Dade Phelan (R-Beaumont) repeats his oath of office as Speaker of the Texas House of Representatives while his wife, Kim, holds the family Bible Tuesday in Austin. Phelan's District 21 includes Orange County.

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

Talk about a landslide. Dade Phelan, Orange County's man in the Statehouse, won support from every corner of the state and sailed into the 87th Texas Legislature Tuesday as the Speaker of the House.

The Beaumont native, who represents District 21, which

takes in much of western Jefferson County, much of Port Arthur and all of Orange County, was elected by a 143-2 vote with four members not voting.

The area was well represented on Phelan's big day. Bishop Curtis Guillory, the retired leader of the Catholic Diocese of Beaumont, said opening and closing prayers.

Rep. Joe Deshotel (D-Beaumont), who represents Beaumont, most of Mid-County and part of Port Arthur, introduced Phelan after the vote.

His nominating speeches were given by Rep. Will Metcalf (R-Conroe), Rep. Nicole

Collier (D-Fort Worth) and Rep. J.M. Lozano (R-Kingsville), illustrating the diversity of Phelan's support and the way he works across the aisle.

"History is built out of diversity," Phelan said. "Legacies are built out of doing

what's right."

The Legislature's 140-day every-other-year session will deal with the requirements of drafting a two-year budget and redrawing the state's political maps based on population movement noted by the decennial U.S. Census

against the backdrop of the ongoing public health crisis caused by the coronavirus.

"Texas children and educators must continue to be at the forefront of our legislative agenda this session,"

PHELAN Page 3A

3rd graders get lessons from the Mayor



Ally Trero asks Mayor Spears, "Will you run for Governor someday and President?" He explained that in the near future he would be running again for Mayor.

Little Cypress Elementary students of Camille Franklin, Anna Mott and Kathleen Thibodeaux got a chance to ask questions of Orange Mayor Larry Spears on Friday, January 8, when he visited the campus. The Mayor's visit was in conjunction with the students' government studies and the kids were ready with questions for the elected official, who answered each in a way the third graders could understand. Apparently, being an elected official to them meant having lots of money since, "Are you rich?" was something more than one wanted to know. He let them guess before telling

them his monthly salary from the City is \$184.00, and that he supports his family by working at DOW. Some of the questions included: "What do you do other than be the Mayor?" Ezra Johnson; "Are you and your government going to bring any new business to Orange?" Remi Wright; "Do you live in a house like the White House?" Branson Fuslier; and "What do you have to talk about with the Governor or the President?" Avery Arrowood. Mr. Spears answered each one and complimented the students on their thoughtful questions.

Called to quit, Babin blames Court

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

The Houston Chronicle's Editorial Board has called for Orange's representative in Congress, Rep. Brian Babin of Woodville, to resign for his part in last Wednesday's deadly attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Babin, a vocal supporter of President Donald Trump the past four years, released a statement blaming the Supreme Court for the riot of Trump supporters that left five people dead.

"If SCOTUS [Supreme Court of the United States] had properly acted and heard the Texas lawsuit, we might have prevented frustrations from festering into the tragic acts of [Jan. 6]," Babin said on his Twitter account on Jan. 7.

"The American people deserved a decision on the merit of numerous claims of unconstitutionality, irregularity, and fraud. It was their duty. They failed."

Babin, who represents Texas' 36th District, was referring to the Supreme Court rejecting a lawsuit filed by Texas Atty. Gen. Ken Paxton seeking to throw out votes from Wisconsin, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Michigan that helped Democrat Joe Biden win the Nov. 3 Presidential election.

The case was rejected by seven of the nine Justices saying Texas lacked standing to intervene in other states' elections. Those voting not to hear the case included all three Justices appointed by President Trump.



Babin

In the week leading to Jan. 6, Babin announced he would vote in favor of objections to certifying the election, hoping to win a 10-day audit of all voting requested by Texas Sen. Ted Cruz.

Babin appeared on Newsmax TV and FOX News and repeated the circular thinking that there must be fraud because Trump and his allies said there was and tens of millions of Trumpists believed it and if you asked anyone for proof, you were told it must be true because so many people were believed it.

Babin was one of 16 Texas Republican members of the House of Representative that joined Texas Cruz in ultimately voting Wednesday night in favor of discredited objections to certifying the election.

The Houston Chronicle referred to the Texas reps as "The Seditious Sixteen."

The paper, in its editorial, said:

"We Texans have sent our share of buffoons, grifters, lightweights, crooks, ignoramuses and ego-obsessed assenatives of the people ... In the wake of last week's Capitol insurrection, there are more names to add to this list, starting with [Sen. Ted] Cruz and the 16 Republican

BABIN Page 3A

WO mayor McDonald leans toward retirement

DAVE ROGERS
For The Record

After more than 25 years as mayor of West Orange, Roy McDonald said he is "99 and 9/10% sure" that he will not run for reelection in May.

And a former Louisiana Justice of the Peace is ready to take his place.

Jim Whittington, 51, a relative newcomer to West Orange in that he has only lived in town for 17 years, about half the time McDonald has served as an alderman or mayor there, says, "I love West Orange. I want to clean up West Orange and head in a new direction.

"I think we need the younger generation to do that."

City and most school board elections in Orange



Mayor Roy McDonald



Jim Whittington

County are scheduled to be held on Saturday, May 1, 2021. Monday night, the West Orange city council approved an ordinance calling for the election for the seats of mayor and two at-large aldermen.

Wednesday, Jan. 13, is the first day for candidates to register for a spot on the bal-

lot. The deadline is Friday, Feb. 12.

All five seats on city council - mayor and four aldermen - pay the not-too-princely sum of \$1 per year.

The alderman seats up for election at West Orange currently belong to Randy Branch and Brent Dearing. Branch said he's planning to

run for reelection while Dearing said he hadn't decided.

McDonald, 76, said Monday that his wife, Laverne, gleaned the news of Whittington's election plans and shared it with him.

"My wife has Facebook," McDonald explained. "I heard that Mr. Whittington's going to run for mayor and that's OK. I'm glad someone is.

"I've been mayor for a really long time. I've done, in my opinion, a really good job -- in my opinion. I am sure that I had some shortfalls, like everybody does.

"I'm not sure at this point in time but I'm 99 and 9/10% sure that I'm not going to run."

MCDONALD Page 3A



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TEXAS STATE NEWS

Legislative session begins with heavy security following U.S. Capitol riot

PATRICK SVITEK
The Texas Tribune

The Texas Legislature gavelled in Tuesday for its biennial session with a heavy security presence after the U.S. Capitol insurrection last week and rampant reminders of the still-raging coronavirus pandemic.

The state House and Senate met in the early afternoon without incident, and there was only a small protest outside the Capitol beforehand. Still, the sight of state troopers clustered around the building's entrances and lining the halls inside was striking, especially after the unrest in the nation's capital on Wednesday that left five people dead and has led to dozens of arrests.

"This is my 19th session, and I don't think I've ever felt the way I felt today when I recognized that we had to have all this security," Rep. Harold Dutton, D-Houston, said in the minutes before the session began. "And my first question

"Today, we are on the brink of defeating COVID-19," Phelan said. "Now the difficult work of recovery begins, and we have a very short runway in which to do it."

to myself was, How far have we come? I mean, have we come forward or have we gone backward?"

"I told the DPS officers and the military I felt safe," Dutton added, "but I didn't know I needed them to feel safe."

The opening day of the 140-day session was otherwise highlighted by adjustments made due to the pandemic and the election of Rep. Dade Phelan, R-Beaumont, as House speaker, which was expected. In addition to each chamber's opening-day protocols, there was mandatory COVID-19 testing for everyone entering the building, a move that the Department of Public Safety announced Monday evening.



Security at the Texas Capitol was increased after violence at the U.S. Capitol in Washington D.C. last week. Jan 12, 2021.
Photo Credit: Jordan Vonderhaar for The Texas Tribune

"Everyone has been tested that's on the floor today and in the gallery," Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick said during the Senate's meeting. "We want our Capi-

work of recovery begins, and we have a very short runway in which to do it."

In similar speeches to both chambers, Abbott promised to focus on "tackling COVID challenges" and "getting Texans back to work." He also spoke of ensuring better access to health care for Texans and helping law enforcement, an allusion to his previously announced push to punish local governments that "defund the police" in his view.

Phelan also used his speech to address the storming of the U.S. Capitol, saying Americans "witnessed the dark side of political and social division as senseless and unacceptable violence swept through our streets" both last week and over the summer, when anti-police-brutality protesters clashed with some police.

Nothing remotely close to what happened in Washington, D.C., unfolded Tuesday in Austin. There was a small protest — appearing to number less than a dozen people — outside the Capitol's north entrance, at least partly related

to vaccines, about an hour before the session began, and a wall of DPS officers were lined up on the perimeter of it.

After the chambers let out around 1:30 p.m., DPS troopers were still in place on the outdoor perimeter of the Capitol, but there were no protests in sight.

There was little drama inside the building as well. After unofficially locking up the speakership weeks ago, Phelan won it by a vote of 143-2. In the Senate, lawmakers unanimously elected state Sen. Brian Birdwell, R-Granbury, president pro tempore, a ceremonial post which typically goes to the longest-serving senator who has not yet served as pro tem. Birdwell replaces state Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston.

Both chambers are set to take up their rules later this week, and then, if they finish their work, adjourn until Jan. 26.

The scene on each chamber's floor was less active and crowded than it has been on opening day in past sessions,

with lawmakers allowed to bring fewer guests than usual. House members were required to wear masks; senators were not.

Milling about the Capitol before noon, lawmakers said they felt safe, both with the enhanced security presence and the pandemic measures.

"I feel way over safe," Rep. Kyle Biedermann, R-Fredericksburg, said, adding that he did not see any security concerns and disagreed with the need for mandatory coronavirus testing to enter the building.

While the House and Senate instituted opening-day protocols inside their respective chambers, members have been allowed to run their offices how they see fit, at least in the House. Phelan said in a

statement Monday night that "each member will decide how they run their office and the protocols governing their office for the remainder of the session."

Biedermann said there are "no rules" inside his office and he is relying on people to be personally responsible, "just like they do in real life."

Rep. Chris Turner, D-Grand Prairie, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus, said his office is not accepting visitors and requiring masks.

"Members can do what they want through their own offices," Turner said, "but in common areas, on the House floor, I hope everyone is respectful of each other."

Alex Samuels contributed reporting.

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of Orange County, Texas

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OC middle school band members recognized



Pictured above are members of the Bridge City Middle School Band who earned a seat in the ATSSB All-Region Band.

The Bridge City Region 10 ATSSB band members are: Emily Black, Kaylee Britten, Abbie Menoza, Savannah Smith, Mallory Bailey, Ashlee Langdone, Jaylin Hock, McKenzie Trosclair, Christian Shafer, Sarah Langston, Kaden Smith, Grant O'Quinn, Gracin Weldon, Carter Lane, Andrew Moore, Tyler Smith, Novah Richardson, Zack Branoff, Austin Handley, Blaze King, Trystan Davidson, Jonah McElroy, Max Pachar, Gavin Hartje, Kaitlin Oliver, Emily Jones, Michael Carey, Jacob Maldonado, Atticus Moore, Lennon Wheeler, Thomas Walpole, Mason Bradford, JR., Hannah Edwards, Konner Lebert, Michael Roush, Braeden Lambert, Aaden Bush, Addison Woods, Chloe Matt, Landon Leux and Kaylee Derouen.



Mauriceville Middle School Band Director Kathy Smith announced the names of students who have earned chairs in the Texas Music Educators 2021 All-Region Band.

Band members are Kendall Gordon, Tucker Floyd, Caleb Hamilton, Ronnie Rosen, Makenzie Johnson, and Kristian Gordon. Kristian received the great honor of being named first chair in the 1st band.

Photo Above: Kendall Gordon, Tucker Floyd, Caleb Hamilton, Ronnie Rosen, Makenzie Johnson, and Kristian Gordon

Phelan

From Page 1
Phelan said. "Texas children are at risk of falling behind because of disruptions caused by the pandemic. We cannot fail them when they need us the most."

"To get Texas back to work, we must protect our citizens' lives and safeties. We must revitalize our economy. We must reduce burdensome regulation that impedes our business climate."

His short speech recognized the change in the land-

scape since the last Legislature adjourned in 2019, including the pandemic and divisive politics capped off by last week's assault on the U.S. Capitol.

"During this, our 87th session, we have the opportunity to lead by example and work on real issues of real significance for the people of Texas. I encourage everyone ... to work together for the betterment of Texas."

Phelan, 45, noted early in

Babin blames

From Page 1
House members who voted in favor of discrediting objections to certifying the election ... Trump and his MAGA maniacs have made a mockery of our democratic institutions.

"We must hold our elected officials accountable for their role in this outrage. Congress members such as Randy Weber, Brian Babin and [others] ended the day where they began: in craven thrall to Trump and his true-believers. They must be censured, at the very least."

"In this hour of crisis, Cruz and his craven colleagues

need to step aside. Bigger, braver, more principled Texans must step up."

Houston Rep. Dan Creshaw, a retired Navy SEAL who lost an eye to an IED explosion in Afghanistan, ripped lawmakers who had been saying this was "our time to fight."

"When people fought, those same members of Congress who called people to fight, well, they were nowhere to be found," he told the Dallas Morning News.

Among many corporations who have said they are pausing donations to Congress-

men were defense contractors Northrop Grumman and Raytheon, each of which donated more than \$10,000 of the \$1.3 million Babin raised for the 2020 election.

His latest "pinned" Tweet, written over the weekend, insists he isn't changing his stance.

"To the millions who were told to sit down, shut up, and blindly accept the unconstitutionality of the 2020 election: I stood and objected," his account posted. "To abdicate that responsibility is a surrender to tyranny."

owned and operated Robert's Body Shop, he said.

"This n That" is Whittington's business, a consignment store for antiques. It's in Vidalia, Louisiana. He makes the seven-hour round trip weekly.

"I want to bring West Orange up to standard and it's going to take young men to do that. I've got a vision of it," he said.

Whittington said he'll turn in his application to West Orange City Hall Tuesday.

"I'm definitely running," he said.

McDonald leans toward retirement

From Page 1
McDonald, who first joined West Orange's council in 1987 and has served as mayor since 1995, said health issues are playing a factor in his decision.

"I've had a lot of medical issues. My wife's got a lot of medical issues. I think it's about that time [to leave public office]."

"We still have to discuss that before I can make a real announcement. I've still got time before the deadline."

Whittington is a native of Vidalia, Louisiana, a suburb of Natchez, Mississippi, located on the west bank of the Mississippi River, 240 miles

from Orange, he said.

According to Whittington, he grew up in nearby Ferriday, just like musical performers Jerry Lee Lewis and Mickey Gilley and evangelist Jimmy Swaggart, a trio of cousins he says are also his distant cousins.

Whittington resigned as Justice of the Peace in Concordia Parish, Louisiana, to run for Sheriff and was defeated in that race in 1999," he said.

Whittington says he came to West Orange 17 years ago and moved in with his girlfriend, Virginia Johnson. Her father, Robert Baca,



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From The Creaux's Nest

ROGUE PRESIDENT TURNS ON COUNTRY

For over four years I have tried to explain who **Donald Trump** was. For over 30 years I've known him to be a **New York shyster**. A very corrupt con man with over 4000 lawsuits filed against him for non payment to contractors and workers. Six times he was forced into bankruptcy. From day one he was unfit to be president of the **United States**; he had absolutely no government experience. He ran in the Republican Primary after considering the Democratic Primary. He didn't run thinking he would win, he ran to promote the **Trump brand**. He had never been a **Republican** and there is no record he ever voted **Republican** before voting for himself. I predicted we would regret the day he was elected. Now thank God he will be gone. A second term would have turned into a dictatorship, we've already seen evidence of that. He had already started a civil war with the Republican Party. He and **Steve Bannon's** plan was a third party by expanding on his white supremacy base. He would have ruled by executive order, not needing congress. I have no proof but I really believe he would have partnered with **Russia's Vladimir Putin**. He had already discounted **Mitch** and most of the **Republicans**. No telling what he would have done. War with **Iran** is not out of the question and we know **Russia** has been pushing for an attack on them, just as **Israel** has. Again, I'm thankful we will never find out what this crazy man is capable of doing. Anyone who would do nothing to stop a good Christian man like **V.P. Pence** from potentially getting hanged has a black heart. Believe me, if the mob would have run into **Pence** they would have done it. **Trump** has no loyalty. **Pence**, reduced to a puppet every time he publicly spoke, always recited these words, "Thank you **Mr. President** for your leadership." Made me want to throw up but on the other hand, I felt sorry for **Pence**. He had been reduced to a lap puppy by a no good, lousy bully. He watched on television the invasion of the **Capitol**. It was reported he was getting his jollies off and couldn't understand why everyone in the room wasn't as excited as him. I suspect about that time the realization hit them of what was really happening. **Trump**, along with **Rudy, Don Jr.**, had sent the mob their harshest words to rile those sickos into doing as much as possible. I believe all three should be charged with trying to overthrow the government. **Trump** should never again be allowed to run for public office. Since his defeat he had milked the "**Cash Cow**" for **\$250 million** that he can use to cause havoc. Nothing is bad enough for him. It made me sick to watch what he perpetrated on our **Capitol**. Just last week I wrote in this column that something bad was getting ready to happen. I've been accused of having a Chrystal ball after that column. No, I just knew **Trump** would not go away quietly and would burn down everything he could, including the **Republican Party**. This president didn't go bad, he already was. **Trump** snookered a lot of good people who fell for his lies. **Judge Sid** once told me, "You can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear."

CALLS FOR CRUZ TO RESIGN

U.S. Senator of Texas, **Ted Cruz**, who led an effort in the senate to delay certifying **Trump's** loss, is facing growing calls for his resignation. Many blame him for stoking the post-election strife that culminated with the attack on the **Capitol**. **Cruz** objected to Arizona's electoral vote less than an hour before the thugs breached the building. **Sen. Josh Hawley** was first to promote the delay sham but **Cruz** leap-frogged him in order to gain support from the very **Trump** supporters who invaded the **Capitol**. **Cruz** was trying to be the face of the **Republican Party** in 2024 and he needed the **20% to 30%** of the **White Nationalist** support. **Ted Cruz** knew there wasn't any fraud in the election and that **Biden** had won. I've said before, there is something dark about **Cruz**; he has some **Donald Trump** traits. He is obsessed with being the first **Cuban** president and would do anything to get there, even allow **Trump** to call his wife ugly and his father in on the plot to kill **JFK**. **Republican** colleagues said, "**Ted** should have been working to dispel the false allegations." They accuse **Cruz** of doing the opposite in an attempt to appeal to **Trump** supporters and he used what he knew was not true to raise money, "**A cash cow**" to be used in his presidential bid. Calls were growing Monday for **Cruz** and **Sen. Hanley**, of Missouri, to resign. Houston's of police chief **Art Acevedo** tweeted to **Cruz**, "You fanned the flames of mistrust and history will hold you accountable for the ensuing chaos. **OUTRAGEOUS!**" Some Texans are saying that **Ted Cruz** and **Ken Paxton** who challenged the election results in four battleground states are both an embarrassment to the great state of **Texas**. **Ted** should do the right thing, fold his tent and let **Gov. Abbott** appoint someone who cares about the country, not just for their own personal gain. That's too much like **Trump** and we have suffered four years of that.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2011

The rampage in **Arizona** shocked the nation but between political rhetoric, television violence and today's disrespect for the law, it shouldn't be a surprise. The shooting through the head of **Rep. Gabrielle Giffords**, the killing of **Federal judge John Roll** and six more, including a

nine-year-old girl, **Christina Greene**, born on Sept. 11, 2001. Thirteen others were wounded. **Jared Loughner**, 22, is charged with the crime. Doctors are optimistic that **Rep. Giffords** will survive but what will her mental capacity be like if she does? The congress lady is the wife of astronaut **Mark Kelly**. **Giffords** has drawn the ire of the **Right**, including **Sarah Palin**, over her support of health care reform. In March, a glass door of her office was shot out. Her **Republican** opponent, **Jessie Kelly**, 29, a **Tea Party** member, used the political slogan, "Help remove **Gabrielle Giffords** from office, shoot a fully automatic M16 with **Jesse Kelly**." When people say those things they have to recognize that there are consequences to that kind of action. It is one thing to advocate ones views, I do it quit often, but to be radical about others views and blend it with hate is what has gotten us to this point. The **Glen Beck, Hannity, Limbaugh** and the other extremist really need to tone it down. The volatile political rhetoric has consumed the country. Is that really where we want to be as a country? **Roger Ailes**, boss of **FOX News** has ordered all of his on air personalities to quit it, tone it down. I doubt they will. (Editor's note: Remember that was 10 years ago and **FOX** is still preaching hate.)
Eloide Dunn, wife of **Wilson "King" Dunn**, passed away January 10, 2011, from a resistant staph infection leading to renal failure. **Eloide** was 89 years old. She was one of the descendants of the **Linscomb** and **Willey** families, **Orange County** pioneers. For many years her husband was **Post Master** in **Mauriceville** and she was also a **30-year** **Postal** employee. The couple raised a great family and saw to it that they received a good education. "**King**" is a good friend to this writer and a regular attendant of the **Lunch Bunch** gatherings. His main goal in life was taking care of **Ms. Eloide**, his wife of 72 years. **King** has a lot of friends and a large family who care for him. Our hearts go out to him and his family and especially to our close friend, son **Judge Derry Dunn**. (Editor's note: King has since passed away.) The **Orange County Commissioner's Court** has ordered flags to be flown at half-staff in honor of this fine lady.
Charlotte Anderson had back surgery in Houston last week and is on the mend. **Dorothy Harmon** had a procedure in Houston and could be home this week. **Our friend Rosalie Clark** is much improved and may be released from the hospital by the time you read this.
Happy 25th anniversary to Margie and Harry Stephens who got married at midnight on Jan. 10 so they celebrate Jan. 11. **Happy anniversary and best wishes to these great friends.**
Tom DeLay got three years in prison. He was found guilty of a scheme to convert **\$190,000** in corporate money into cash to help elect seven state representatives. His goal was getting votes for his redistricting scheme. I doubt he will serve time. He will appeal his conviction all the way to the **Supreme Court** if he must. I look for a probation deal to be reached before that. **Skipper Free** had a great birthday party at **Danny's**. **Brack** furnished the coffee, **Skipper** the music. She visited with friends she hadn't seen in many years. Even **88-year-old Joy Parish, Jack Huffman's** aunt, attended. It's a party anywhere **Skipper** is.
National Champions: Auburn beat the **Oregon Ducks** 22-19. It's the first national championship for **Auburn** in 53 years. It was one of the few football predictions I got right. We won't soon forget quarterback **Cam Newton** and freshman and offensive MVP **Michael Dyer**.

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN Obituaries 10 Years Ago-2011

Kimberlyn I. "Kim" Phelps, 52, of Bridge City, passed away Wednesday, Jan. 5. Services were held on Saturday, Jan. 8. She is survived by her husband, **Robert Phelps** of Bridge City; her daughter, **Gillian Briggs**; sister, **Denise McDaniel**; brother, **Joseph Lawrence Martel Jr.** and grandson, **Camden Briggs**.
Billy Edward Bishop, 69, of Orange, died Thursday, Jan. 6. Funeral services were held on Saturday, Jan. 8. Billy is survived by his wife of almost 52 years, **Jacqueline "Jackie" Bishop**; daughters, **Karen Standley Runyon, Rhonda Haley Bishop**; and sons, **Billy Bishop** and **Mike Bishop**; nine grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.

20 Years Ago, 2001

Beverly Perry, a 10 years Bridge City Chamber member will assume the duties as president on Jan. 23. She will replace outgoing president **Harold Trantham**. The president reported that the **Lester "Buckshot" Winfree** roast brought in record moneys. **Charlotte Chiasson** is executive vice-president of the chamber. **Clester** and **Tutu Andrews** celebrated their 32nd wedding anniversary on Jan. 7. **Elvis** would have been 66 years old on Jan. 8. **Former Louisiana governor Edward Edwards** will be sentenced to Federal prison. His lawyer said, "ten years is like a death sentence."
All Orange County Football Team's most valuable player was **Jermaine Hope of West Orange-Stark**. **Most Valuable** two-way player was **Luke Wolfford** of Bridge City. **Offensive MVP** was **Troy Maddox** of Vidor. **Defensive MVP** was **Turquoy Riggs, WO-S**. **Special Teams MVP** was **Jeff Thibodeaux** and **Newcomer of the Year** was **Matt Peebles** of Bridge City. **Defensive MVP** was **Michael Ledet**. **Coach of the Year** was **Dan Hooks**, West Orange-Stark. **Others on MVP team** were quarterback **Nathan Reeves**, Orangefield and **Jonathan Feathers**, WO-S. **Backs** were **Dwayne Breaux**, Bridge City and **Justin Sibley**, LC-M. **Wide receivers** were **Peter Modica**, Orangefield and **Landon Hebert**, LC-M. **Offensive line**, **Donald Paul**, WO-S; **Ryan Busby**, Bridge City; **Justin Hall**, Vidor; **Jason Platt**, WO-S; **Thomas Glover**, Orangefield; **Chris Melton**, Bridge City; **Jonathan Duhon**, Vidor; **Aaron Mitchell**, Bridge City and **Adam Van Metre**, Orangefield. **MVP punter** was **Joey Byerly**, West Orange-Stark. **MVP defensive linemen**, **Paul Thomas**, WO-S; **Chris Daniels**, LC-M; **Josh Landry**, Bridge City; **Ryan Hickey**, Orangefield and **Jeff Gibbs**, Orangefield. **Linebackers** were **Grey Williams**, Orangefield; **Jeff Luker**, Vidor; **Jacob Thibodeaux**, BC and **Kevin Beasley**, BC. **Defensive backs** were **Douglas Sims**, Vidor; **Michael Ledet**, WO-S and **Jeff Thibodeaux**, WO-S. **MVP kicker** **Ben King**, Bridge City. **Wade Phillips** was fired by **Buffalo Bills** owner for refusing to terminate special teams coach **Ronnie Jones**.

45 Years Ago-1976

Medic-Quick, Orange's first privately owned ambulance service starts up 24 hours at 410-Fifth St.
John Ford is being opposed by former city policeman **Don Hartsfield**. **Jerry Pesson** and **Bobby Smitherman** are new owners of **Linder's Texaco** at Roundbunch and Hwy. 87. **Bridge City Chamber** banquet will be held Jan. 27. **Mayor Preston Wood** will present

"**Citizen of the Year**" award. **Cajun humorist W.T. Oliver** will be the speaker. **Mary Jane Wallace** turned 20 years old on Jan. 6.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

I spoke with our friend **Constable Brad Frye** who says he has been very busy with evictions. Since **COVID-19** a lot of people are under the impression that they don't have to pay their rent. Others just don't care, despite driving a nice car and not doing without. The landlords get stuck regardless because it takes so long before the legal papers get to the constables. I understand all four of them are doing several evictions a day.
Tuesday, State Rep. Dade Phelan became the area first speaker of the house in over 170 years. It doesn't matter if the speaker is **Republican** or **Democratic**; it is always good if he's from your area. **Phelan** represents Southeast Texas, which includes **Orange County**. I don't believe **Orange County** ever had a state senator or United States congressman despite being the most populated county in the district. **Phelan** is a good choice to be speaker. He will serve during one of the most challenging sessions facing lawmakers, plus fighting the **COVID-19** pandemic. We wish him the best.
A few folks we know celebrating their big day.
Jan. 13: Our long-time friend we have known most of her life, **Mel Campbell**, celebrates along with pretty **Lyndia Permenter**, the First Lady of Pinehurst. **Also celebrating** is Attorney **Rodney Townsend** and Judge **Jerry Pennington**.
Jan. 14: One of **George and Janelle Sehon's** beautiful daughters, **Stephanie Hurst**, turns 26. Celebrating also is **Tommy Thompson** and **Joy's** better half **Robert Simonton**.
Jan. 15: **Joy Hughes, Tyler Reves** and **Don Thompson** celebrate today.
Jan. 16: Our buddy **Glenn Oliver** celebrates today. I miss seeing him. Before **COVID-19** I visited with him almost daily. I hope his health is holding up. **Also celebrating** is **Alice Cole Hartsfield**, who has been a true friend and benefactor with her help over the years.
Jan. 17: The Honorable **John Cash "Jack" Smith** turns 82 today. He's still very sharp lawyer and has a load of nervous energy. **Lovely Gail Meadows**, longtime public servant, celebrates today. **On this day we remember a great guy, Constable David Cagle**, who passed away in 2019.
Jan. 18: Bridge player, **Glenn's** other half, **Brenda Oliver**, celebrates today. **Having a birthday today is Laverne Walles, Bonny Sarver, Dylan Huckebay.** Turning 56 today is former First Lady **Michelle Obama**. She's the most popular American with 72% approval.
Jan. 19: **Candace Clark, Lisa Costilla** and **Jimmy Whittle** celebrate today. On this day we remember former employee and friend **Ray Trahan**, who died 18 years ago in 2003.

CELEBRITY BIRTHDAYS

Jan. 13: Actor **Liam Hemsworth**, 31; Country Singer **Trace Atkins**, 59; Actor **Orlando Bloom**, 44; Actor **Patrick Dempsey**, 55. **Jan. 14:** Actors **Faye Dunaway**, 80; **Emily Watson**, 54 and **Jason Bateman**, 52. **Jan. 15:** Football Player **Drew Brees**, 42; Actor **Chad Lowe**, 53; Executive **Shane McMahon**, 51. **Jan. 16:** Model **Kate Moss**, 47; Singer **Sade**, 62; Baseball Player **Albert Pujois**, 41. **Jan. 17:** Actor **Jim Carrey**, 59; Comedian **Steve Harvey**, 64. **Jan. 18:** Actors **Kevin Costner**, 66; **Jesse L. Martin**, 52; **Jason Segel**, 41. **Jan. 19:** Country Singer **Dolly Parton**, 75; Chef **Paula Deen**, 74; Actors **Katey Sagal**, 67 and **Shawn Wayans**, 50.

CAJUN STORY OF THE WEEK

Tee-Neg Breaux, my cousin **Sostan's** boy, ain't so bright him. It run in da family, being a couple marbles short.

Anyhow, **Tee-Neg** him, and dis gal were locked in a clinch in da front seat of her car.

She whisper in his ear, "Cher, **Tee-Neg**, you wanna go in da back seat?"

"Mais no," **Tee-Neg** reply.

A few minutes later she ask him again, "**Tee-Neg**, you wanna get in da back seat now?"

"No," he say. "Me, I wanna stay in da front seat wit' you, babe."

Another time **Tee-Neg** was hitchhiking from Lafayette to Texas to visit a cousin in Vidor. A man in a big **Lincoln Continental** pick him up. **Tee-Neg**, him, he notice a bunch of golf tees on de front seat.

He say, "Hey Mister, w'at dem t'ings dere for?"

Da Texas man him, he say, "Well, those hold my balls while I drive."

"**Kee-yaw!**" **Tee-Neg** blurted out. "Dem **Lincoln Continental**, dem, dey have everyt'ing, hanh?"

C'EST TOUT TRUMP CHECKS ON HIS MONUMENT BORDER WALL

Donald Trump returned to **Texas** Tuesday in his final visit as president. **Trump** went to **Alamo, Texas** to mark what he called the completion of 400 miles of border wall. In the past, **Trump** had told his rally followers that he would build a 2,100 mile, 30-foot high, concrete border wall. He then would ask, "**Who will pay for the wall?**" His **Bubba** he would shout, "**Mexico**." This would be **Trump's** monument, his **Mt. Rushmore**. Only 30 miles of wall have been completed, most of the work has replaced older fences and barriers. When **Trump** took office, the nation had 654 miles of various fencing along the 1,954 miles of **U.S.** border from **Mexico** to **California**. **Texas** had just 100 miles of fencing. After congress refused to give him **\$5 billion** for the construction, **Trump** turned to using defense department appropriations to cover some construction. Almost **\$10 billion** was diverted from the **Pentagon** program in 2019 and in 2020. While **Trump** sees the wall as his crowing achievement, his administration began a new policy where adults who crossed the border, a misdemeanor or for a first time offender, were detained and criminally charged. Children were taken from their parents. In 2019, many faulted **Trump's** rhetoric on immigration for inspiring a shooting rampage in **El Paso** at a **Wal-Mart** store, leaving 23 people dead. **Trump** started his campaign with lies to stir up **White Nationalism** and incite hate towards immigrants. **Julian Castro** said on Sunday, "He's ending his presidency like he began four years ago and we saw just how dangerous and destructive that playbook became." The communities on our southern border have seen that destruction first hand. **Trump's** plan for his monument is to place a plaque, with his picture and words letting everyone know it was built by him, on the 10 miles of newly completed wall. No, **Mexico** didn't pay one nickel on the wall. **Just one of the 30,000 lies his Bubba's bought.** **My time is up. We pray God will bless and protect our nation. Take care and stay safe.**

Deaths & Memorials

Cheryl Anne Barfield, 60 Orangefield

Cheryl Anne Barfield, 60, of Orangefield, passed away on January 11, 2021, at her home.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:00 a.m., Friday, January 15, at St. Helen Catholic Church in Orangefield. Officiating will be Father Michael Strother. Burial will follow at St. Mary Catholic Cemetery.

Visitation will be from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Thursday, with a Rosary starting at 6:30 p.m., at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange.

Born in Sulphur, Louisiana, on November 8, 1960, she was the daughter of James Barton Sonnier, Sr. and Patsy Marie (Courville) Sonnier. Cheryl owned Decolores Religious Gift Shop and was also owner and office manager of Barfield Home Inspections. She was a devout Catholic and a very active member of St. Helen Catholic Church where she taught CCD and first communion. Cheryl was the hands and feet of the Lord and enjoyed making heirloom rosaries made from sentimental flowers and speaking his word at Prison Retreat Ministries. To know and love her was to know and love the Lord. Cheryl enjoyed gardening and being an RCIA sponsor as well as an Acts Retreat sponsor. She



Cheryl Barfield

was also a member of the Bridge City Chamber of Commerce and Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce for many years. Cheryl loved being Ma' Ma' to her adored grandbabies and never missed a moment with them. She left an impact on many lives over the years and will be dearly missed by those who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, James and Patsy Sonnier; and brother, Joey Sonnier.

She is survived by her loving husband, James "Rusty" Barfield; children, Christopher Barfield and wife Ashley, Elizabeth Barfield, Gabrielle Barfield, and Jonathan Barfield all of Orangefield; grandchildren, Braelyn Baugh, Amaris Barfield, Rustin Barfield, and Beau Barfield; siblings, Monica Lynn Sonnier and partner Andrew Love, James Barton Sonnier, Jr., Bernard Eugene Sonnier and wife Darla all of Orange, and Paulette Allbritton and husband Wayne of Mauriceville.

Mary Elizabeth Rush Mazoch, 78 Orange

On January 9, 2021, Mary Elizabeth Rush Mazoch gained her angel wings at the young age of 78.

Funeral Services to honor Mary's Life will be held January 13, 2021 at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Visitation will be from 1:00 to 2:00 with Funeral Services to follow at 2:00. Officiating will be Pastor Lynn Ashcraft. Burial will follow at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens.

Mary's life was surrounded by constant love from her family and lifelong friends. Family was very special to her, always expressing how proud she was of their accomplishments.

Born in Independence, Louisiana on August 18, 1942 to Jesse Napoleon & Allie Venita Rush. Her family moved to Texas in 1946 and graduated from Bridge City High School in 1961. Mary often told us stories about strutting with the "White Flashes" drill team at Bridge City High and being voted Best Dress Girl her senior year. Mary proudly made most of her clothes or would buy a special outfit at Town & Country. She later became a lifelong resident of Orange.

While raising her daughter and son she attended Barbizon School of Modeling and Real Estate School. Then she went to work for Dupont as a Process Operator in 1978 and retired in 2001. Her fellow colleagues referred to her as "Mrs. M" and ultimately respected her as a strong minded and confident female that was dedicated to her roles there. Her driven mind set and perseverance was valued by all of Dupont.

She always enjoyed life to the fullest and loved passing time in her beautiful yard on the bayou, spending time at her beach cabin and taking long walks on Crystal Beach with her granddaughter, Sydney. Another one of her favorite pastimes was shopping late at night and getting packages delivered every week from QVC network. She has served in numerous organizations and clubs including being a member of the Orange & Beaumont Power Squadron, Red Hat Society Club and Board Member of the Orange Camp Fire



Mary Mazoch

Counsel. In later years, she looked forward to her weekly Canasta games and playing Bingo & Bunco with her best girlfriends. She also enjoyed traveling the world and anticipating when and where her next trip would be, especially cruising the Caribbean.

This classy, vivacious lady always had a pretty smile on her face, and most people that knew her, called her a true "Southern Belle"! She will truly be missed by so many.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Margaret Ann Roberts of Bee Branch, Arkansas and brother, J.C. Rush of Orange, Texas.

Left to cherish her memory are her children, Christi Moerbe and husband Larry of Orange, TX; Charles Darden and wife Lora of Round Rock, TX; her loving brother, Ken (Kenny) Rush and wife Sara of New York, NY; granddaughters, Sydney Wimberley of Murrells Inlet, SC, Sarah Moerbe of Denver, CO; grandson, Matthew Moerbe of Clearlake, TX; special & lifelong friend, Charles Darden, Jr. Also dear to her heart were Jessica Rush, Ben Rush and Lisa Rush Vercher; along with many other family members.

Pallbearers honoring Mary: Charles Darden, Jr. Larry Moerbe, Matthew Moerbe, Lisa Rush Vercher, Jonathan Stevenson, Ryan Conner, Mike Magnuson and Steve Rahja.

Honorary Pallbearers: Ben Rush, Charlie Dixon and Curt Dixon.

In addition to the Funeral Service, there will be a "Celebration of Mary's Life" scheduled for a later date for all her family and friends.

If you would like to donate to the COVID Relief Fund you can do so at www.unitedwayorangecounty.org in memory of Mary Mazoch.

Social distancing will be taken seriously at her service. MASKS ARE REQUIRED.

Ken "Deany" Dean Williams, 73 Vidor

Ken Dean Williams, 73, of Vidor, passed away on January 4, 2021, in Houston. Funeral services were held, Monday, January 11, at Claybar Funeral Home in Orange. Officiating was Pastor Joseph Eberly. Burial followed at Hillcrest Memorial Gardens. Born in Carthage, Texas, on July 8, 1947, he was the son of Byron Henderson Williams and Alice (Dyson) Williams. Ken was an engineer through and through and was always working on building new things. He was an outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing as well as a history buff. Ken was a generous man who lived to help others succeed in life and always kept people laughing with his jokes. His number one priority was his children and grandchildren and he never missed a moment to spend time with them. Ken left an impact on many lives and will be dearly missed by those who knew and loved him. He was preceded in death by



Ken Williams

his father, Byron Williams; brother in law, Bobby Cooper, and sister in law, Cathy Williams. He is survived by his mother, Alice Williams; children, Shae White of Orange, Austin Williams also of Orange, Travis Williams and wife Pam of Bridge City, and Samantha Eberly and husband Joseph of Sidney, Iowa; grandchildren Tabbatha Lenard; Avery Williams, Emma Williams, Reid White, Gavin Williams, Isaiah Eberly and Hannah Eberly; siblings, Mike Williams and wife Charlene, Rob Williams, Glenda Cooper, and Butch Williams and wife Brenda; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and other loving family and friends.

AAUW Orange Book-Ins welcome memberships

For information on Book-Ins and membership in AAUW, leave a message for Sarah Boehme at (409) 883-4147. AAUW stands for the American Association of University Women.

The organization's mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy. Its vision

is equity for all. Membership in AAUW is open to any graduate holding an associate or equivalent, baccalaureate, or higher degree from a regionally accredited institution. Others without the above qualifications may enjoy participation through "Friend" memberships.

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Daughters of the American Revolution meetings

The Daughters of the American Revolution William Diamond Chapter of Orange County meets the third Tuesday of the month at St. Paul Methodist Church in Bridge City at 1:00 p.m. Any woman who can establish a direct family line to a patriot in the American Revolution can join. The

Daughters of the American Revolution promotes Patriotism, Education and Historical Preservation. We had members that can help you find your Patriot. If you need any questions answered you can call Jackie Hucakbay, Regent @ 409-719-6478 or Registrar, Katy Latiolais @ 409-720-9834.

Federal execution of Lisa Montgomery halted on eve of sentence

(CNA).- A district court judge has stayed the execution of Lisa Montgomery, the only woman on federal death row, on the eve of her execution.

"Ms. Montgomery's motion to stay execution, is granted to allow the Court to conduct a hearing to determine Ms. Montgomery's competence to be executed," said an order from Judge James Patrick Hanlon of the Southern District of Indiana.

"The Court will set a time and date for the hearing in a separate order in due course," he said.

According to Montgomery's attorneys, her mental

state has deteriorated since the date of her execution was announced. She has reportedly begun hearing voices, and at one point said that "God spoke with her through connect-the-dot puzzles."

"Based on reported observations, review of past materials, review of BOP medical records, and, in Dr. Kempke's case, her past observation of Ms. Montgomery experiencing psychosis, all three experts opine that Ms. Montgomery is presently unable to rationally understand the government's rationale for her execution," said Hanlon.

Montgomery was diagnosed with various mental



With only hours before the scheduled execution of Lisa Montgomery, a convicted murderer and the first woman to face the federal death penalty in nearly seven decades, a federal judge late Monday put a temporary stop to it pending a mental competency review.

illnesses and experienced and sexual abuse she endured as a child.

Hanlon noted that while there are often "frivolous" filings prior to a condemned prisoner's scheduled execution, "counsel's filing is not frivolous."

"As discussed elsewhere in this order, Ms. Montgomery has been diagnosed with physical brain impairments and multiple mental illnesses, and three experts are of the opinion that, based on conduct and symptoms reported to them by counsel, Ms. Montgomery's perception of reality is currently distorted and impaired," he said.

Montgomery was sentenced to death in 2007 for

the 2004 murder of Bobbie Jo Stinnett, a 23-year-old woman who was 8 months pregnant. Montgomery cut Stinnett's unborn daughter out of her womb, and kidnapped her across state lines. The girl survived and is now a teenager.

Multiple Catholic figures have spoken out against Montgomery's planned execution, arguing that she is mentally unwell and that the death penalty itself is unjust.

In 2019, the Trump administration announced that federal executions would resume after a nearly two-decade moratorium.

ORANGE COUNTY CHURCH DIRECTORY

The Light Of God In The Darkness

Pastor Charles Empey
Columnist
For The Record



Pastor Charles Empey

In the Gospel of John 1:4-5 "In him was life; and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."

In the Epistle of First John 1:5,7 "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

In the Gospel of John 8:12 "Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

In the Gospel of John 12:46 "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness."

My choice of Scripture is to inspire hope in the believer. I can't help the unbeliever, because in his or her unbelief

he or she remains blinded by the darkness of faithlessness and remains captive to a lost dark world. Their focus is on their problems and the world gone crazy around them. Focusing on the problems around us brings no solution to the problem. The struggle we must come to grips with is that when you are not looking in faith upon Jesus, you are looking into darkness, and darkness offers you no peace to the insanity that keeps and always will come out of it. God separated darkness from light in the very beginning of creation. It was

one of the first things He did. He has never quit doing that in those of true faith and inspiring them to ever focus on Him. To do that we must always look to Him. When there is doubt and confusion and fear of what you see in your personal life that you cannot control or the world around you doesn't make sense and only deals you futility, look away to the the Lord Jesus the light of the world and His life and way will bring you to peace (Psalm 23). "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved." (Acts 16:31)

There is no compatibility between darkness and light. It is one or the other. The two have not mixed sense the first day of creation. Darkness and light have never been able to collaborate for joint existence. You either are in darkness or you are in light. You must focus on one or the other. Focusing on the darkness, things out of your control, is to feel all emotional struggle and helplessness

that comes with it. To focus on Jesus the light of the world, God's light, is to focus on clear assurance of His guidance and deliverance. When in hospital, for example, do not focus on why you are there nor the depressing surroundings of a hospital, nor the reports of the doctors, but upon your Deliverer through it all, Jesus. He will deliver you back into your loved ones arms or into His where you will remember no more the darkness of this world, only the Light of heaven, your Savior and Friend, Jesus. Do not allow the darkness around you to dictate to your spirit nor conscience your conclusion. Call on Jesus, the Light of God in your heart and mind to give you peace and guidance. Jesus has come to be the light to light every person who will believe. "Whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." (Rom. 10:13) His name is Jesus.

Whatever is robbing you of your peace does not come

out of the Light of the world, Jesus, our God and Savior. It comes out of the Enemy who dictates darkness, Satan, and darkness itself. It is not many choices. It is one and only one. Look away from all that is produced out of a dark

soul, a dark world, a dark Satan and look to the Light of God that produces peace that defies all understanding (Phil. 4:6-7).

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

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Rev. Mark Bunch Email: office@stpaulfamily.org

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(www.faithorange.org)

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Worship Director: Alyssa Click
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Worship Service 10:45 a.m. / Wednesday Service 7 p.m.
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Sunday School For All Ages 10:00 a.m.
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Cold weather making it tough

CAPT. DICKIE COLBURN
For The Record



Dickie Colburn

"I think we can get the boat in the water, but I don't know if we can get it out," said Cade Sensat as he and his fishing partner, Gail Livingston, took one more look before trying to launch their boat Monday evening.

I have known Cade for a long time so it came as no surprise that they weren't at all concerned with the miserable conditions. He stays mad at the fish whether it be bass or speckled trout.

"We were going to run up to Rayburn," said Sensat, "but Gail couldn't get off work until two o'clock. I really want to run this new engine more than fish, but she's not into freezing her butt off just for a boat ride!"

When I left they were sharing a cup of coffee and still trying to make their final decision. As it turned out they did launch Cade's Ranger, did go fishing and most importantly, did get the boat back on the trailer just before dark.

I really thought they were had trouble when I saw his number on my phone, but he just wanted to brag a little. "I don't know that I have ever fished in water dirtier than this," he started out, "but we still caught four or five small bass and two limits of redbfish at the mouth of Black's."

"Gail caught all but two of the fish, but only because our relationship is more important than two Gulp curly tails," noted Cade in a serious tone. "I only had one jar with two white tails in the boat and she put one on her spinnerbait and the jar in her pocket. She still had both of them when we quit."

I could hear her laughing in the background so I am thinking it was probably a reasonably accurate account of what took place.

Cade said the water was so low and muddy that they stayed in the deepest part of the bayou hoping the water closer to the bottom was a little clearer. He was bouncing a Hoginar off the bottom while she crawled her Gulp tail rigged on a quarter ounce spinner bait along the deep break. The fish were 12 to 14 feet deep.

"I locked the troll motor on one spot and we moved a few feet only one time all afternoon," stated Cade. "I was really surprised that I couldn't fool a red with my trusty Hoginar, but they only wanted that Curly tail grub. You would have thought she would have shared after I started crying, but she didn't fall for that." I could hear her laughing again so I am assuming all is well!

I am not advocating working your tail off in these less than favorable conditions for a few fish, but it is encouraging to

COLBURN Page 3B

Wild Card weekend great for teams

KAZ'S KORER
JOE KAZMAR
For The Record



Joe Kazmar

The opening round of the National Football League—the Wild Card Round—was designed to give some of the league's better teams that didn't win a division crown a taste of the post-season playoffs and of course, to generate extra income for the league and the teams good enough to qualify.

Nobody will ever deny that 2020 was an unusual year for almost everybody in some form or another. Sports suffered dramatically especially on the high school and collegiate levels with many events either postponed or merely canceled.

Major league baseball was able to have a much-shortened 60-game schedule, the NBA held its post-season playoffs at one facility in Orlando, FL, and most college football seasons were either shortened or canceled entirely.

But the NFL was able to have a full 16-game schedule for all 30 teams with a playoff format that added an extra wild card team from each conference, jumping the number from the usual 12 to 14 teams, with the top team with the best record from each conference earning a first-round bye.

And to conform with the weird year that just ended, this year's Wild Card



The game that should get the most hype this week is Tampa Bay at New Orleans which will feature the NFL's two graybeard over 40-year-old quarterbacks-- Tom Brady of the Buccaneers and Drew Brees of the Saints—as New Orleans tries to beat Tampa Bay for the third time this season.

Playoff was a godsend for those wild card teams as four of them came through the first round of last weekend's games with victories. All but one of the wild card winners—the Tampa Bay Buccaneers—could be categorized as an upset victory.

The first upset occurred in Saturday's second game when the runner-up Los Angeles Rams traveled to Seattle to take on the NFC West Division

KAZ'S KORNER Page 4B

Texas A&M moves to No. 4 in final AP top 25

Texas A&M can say that it finished the season at No. 4.

The Aggies moved up into the top four in the final AP top 25 of the season released late Monday night. A&M follows national champion Alabama, Ohio State and Clemson. The Aggies jumped Notre Dame, which fell to fifth after losing to Alabama in the Rose Bowl.

A&M beat North Carolina

in the Orange Bowl to finish the season at 9-1. The Tar Heels — who were short-handed in the bowl game — fell four spots to No. 18 in the final AP poll.

Oklahoma ends the season at No. 6 after beating Florida in the Cotton Bowl. The Gators fell three spots after that loss. Florida was also without numerous players in its loss, including the team's top four

receivers.

The top 10 also includes Georgia, Cincinnati, Iowa State and Northwestern. The Bulldogs beat the Bearcats in the Peach Bowl, ISU beat Oregon in the Fiesta Bowl and Northwestern took down Auburn in the Citrus Bowl.

There are eight one-loss teams outside the top 10. BYU is the top team at No. 11 after the Cougars finished

the season with a Boca Raton Bowl win over UCF. That's three spots ahead of Coastal Carolina after the Chanticleers lost to Liberty in the Cure Bowl to end the season. That loss ended CCU's undefeated season.

Final AP Top 25

1. Alabama (13-0)
2. Ohio State (7-1)
3. Clemson (10-2)
4. Texas A&M (9-1)



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 <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="color: red; font-size: 24px;">\$48,541</p>	 <p>2015 Ford F-150 Platinum SuperCrew 3.5L 6 Cyl., Automatic Trans., Exterior Color: Black, Interior Color: Black, Mileage: 60797, Stock #: P2298</p> <p style="color: red; font-size: 24px;">\$36,638</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="color: red; font-size: 24px;">\$34,174</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="color: red; font-size: 24px;">\$30,487</p>

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Game Warden Field Notes

The following items are compiled from recent Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) law enforcement reports.

Penny Pinching

A Shelby County game warden followed up on an ongoing investigation of a local individual who had hunted without a valid hunting license when he shot a buck in 2019. The subject confessed to not buying the license to save money for college. Case pending.

Mama's Got Your Back

Two Harris County game wardens followed up on a local poaching complaint and discovered a suspect who had harvested a white-tailed doe had done so without landowner consent. The suspect confessed to poaching and when asked to collect the deer meat, was surprised to find his mom had hidden the illegal deer meat under the couch while the wardens visited with him outside the home. Multiple charges and restitution pending.

Holy Crappie

An Upshur County game warden received an anonymous tip about a substantial amount of fish that had been cleaned and dumped at Lake O' the Pines near Ore City. The warden and his partner responded and inspected the property where the fish were dumped and discovered that two out of state fishermen were responsible. The two fishermen had been fishing every day for a week and were staying at a motel at the local marina. Further investigation revealed 273 crappie, 173 fish over the legal state possession limit, were taken, filleted and stored in ice chests and freezers on the property. More than 350 crappie fillets were seized and donated to multiple families around the area. Multiple charges and restitution pending.

Turtle-y Illegal

A warden was notified about a complaint regarding a local pet store in San Antonio that had a tortoise for sale. Upon inspection of the pet store, the warden seized a Texas Tortoise (a threatened species) that was "given" to the store. Further investigation revealed the store was also selling Mississippi Map Turtles and River Cooter Turtles without a non-game dealers license. The Texas tortoise was released back into the wild. Charges pending.

What's in the Bag?

A Val Verde County game warden was patrolling the northern end of the county for white-tailed deer hunting compliance when he contacted several subjects who were acting evasive when asked simple hunting related questions. Further questioning revealed the group had been trespassing and duck hunting without licenses or duck stamps in between their deer hunt. The breasted-out ducks were found neatly stored in a potato chip bag. Multiple cases and restitution pending.

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See You Later, Alligator

Three game wardens from Johnson, Ellis and Harris Counties and a State Park Police Officer concluded a three-month investigation into an alligator poaching case. In mid-September, game wardens received a tip about an individual living in the Dallas-Fort Worth area who had poached an alligator somewhere on the Trinity River at night while bow fishing. After an extensive search, the subject was identified and found to live in Waxahachie. Two of the wardens questioned the individual at his home and, after some time, he admitted to shooting the alligator. The man also told wardens that it happened on a stretch of the Trinity River near Centerville and his friend had been driving the boat and working the spotlight. Further investigation revealed that the friend shot the alligator with a pistol after it had been shot with the bow twice. The head of the alligator, which was buried on his parent's property, was recovered from the suspect. With information about the additional suspect, a warden and park police officer questioned the friend who also confessed to poaching the alligator. Multiple charges and civil restitution pending.

Fowl Play

A Knox County game warden received a call about someone hunting without landowner consent, so they partnered with a Haskell County game warden and responded. After a quick investigation, the landowner requested that the deer hunter remove his belongings and leave the property. Soon after, the wardens stopped on a road that travels through a ranch and saw an unknown vehicle with two men driving towards them. When they made contact, the men told the wardens they had not hunted that morning. One of the wardens found three turkey feathers and blood stuck to the hitch rack at the rear of the vehicle. When asked about the feathers, they denied killing anything. The men were separated, and wardens were able to get a confession from one of them about killing two turkeys an hour earlier. The hunter that killed the turkeys failed to tag the birds and had hidden the breast under the back seat of the vehicle. The turkey meat was seized and donated to a family in need. Multiple charges and restitution pending.

Repeat Offender

A Uvalde County game warden was on patrol when she saw a subject shoot from a vehicle on a farm to market road. After a short pursuit, the truck pulled over and she contacted the subject. At first, he said he didn't shoot but finally admitted to shooting at a coyote. When the warden was retrieving the gun, she noticed a deer backstrap in a plastic bag in the back seat. The man said he got the meat from his uncle. The warden and the man went to the uncle's house to confirm the story, and after a short visit the man finally admitted to shooting the deer at night from another public road in the area. Multiple charges and restitution pending.

Nutty Timing

Two Newton County game wardens received a call about two suspects hunting white-tailed deer on private property without landowner consent. The wardens responded to the area and were able to locate the suspects in possession of an untagged white-tailed deer and several squirrels. After further investigation, the wardens determined they had been hunting on multiple private tracts of land that morning without landowner consent and had illegally harvested the squirrels and a white-tailed doe. Multiple charges and restitution pending.

Mississippi or Bust

A Lubbock District game warden was patrolling for mule deer compliance in Lamb County when he came across a group of hunters loading up a mule deer buck. After checking their hunting licenses, the warden noticed a mule deer tag missing from one of the hunters' license. The hunter said he hadn't taken a deer this season. When asked about the missing tag, the man told the warden that he had put the tag on a mule deer another hunter killed. The warden asked where the antlers were located, and the hunter wasn't certain. Further investigation revealed the antlers were probably in Mississippi with a local taxidermist. The warden called the taxidermist and the antlers were in fact there. A Mississippi warden was contacted and the antlers were seized. The hunter was cited for allowing another to hunt under their license. The warden later contacted the hunter who actually shot the mule deer and she was cited for hunting without a hunting license, hunting under someone else's license and no hunter education. Charges and restitution pending.

Facebooked

A Limestone County game warden ob-

tained a social media picture involving a female hunter posing with a freshly harvested white-tailed doe in Kosse. The warden began their investigation and it was determined that the suspect did not have a valid Texas hunting license. Since the woman resided in College Station at Texas A&M University, the warden reached out to a Brazos County game warden for assistance. After a brief interview, the woman admitted to harvesting the white-tailed doe during opening weekend and using her father's hunting license tag to properly tag her deer. The meat was processed and taken to her father's residence in Montgomery County. A Montgomery County game warden contacted the father and inspected the deer meat. Multiple charges and warnings were issued, and civil restitution is pending.

Friends of the Orange Depot meeting postponed

Because of the spike in Covid 19 cases in the Orange area, the annual meeting of the Friends of the Orange Depot is postponed until Thursday, February 11 at 1210 Green Avenue at 5:30 PM. A casual BBQ dinner will be served before the meeting begins. All safety protocols will be upheld: masks, unless eating, social distancing in the large room.

We are encouraging interested volunteers to attend the meeting to help with our future events and projects. If attending, please let Rose Simar know at 409-330-1576 so we will have the correct head count.

The organization wishes to thank the community for coming out in December for our Santa Drive-by. We look forward to visits on Santa's lap next Christmas season.

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Sometimes all you can do is laugh...

OUTDOORS CAPT. CHUCK UZZLE For The Record

From my perch on the poling platform I often have plenty of time to think while I push my little boat around the marsh. The standard stuff that goes through every fisherman's mind usually dominates my thoughts. "Where are the fish?" "Should I change locations?" "Is this the right bait?" Nothing out of the ordinary, just everyday fishing thoughts that happen to come to mind.

Plenty of those moments routinely get interrupted by my fishing partner for that day and I snap back to reality. During one of my recent "brainstorming" moments I watched a client just absolutely beat himself up for not remembering to bring a particular piece of gear. The whole episode spawned a conversation between the two of us about our own misfortunes or "Murphy's Law moments" while fishing. Much to the delight of my client for the day I had plenty of those moments from which to choose from.

I don't care who you are or how experienced you are, if you have ever owned a boat you have forgotten your keys or lost them on the way to the launch at least one time in your career. Many folks don't consider how easy it is to have your keys blow out while trailering to your launch if you leave them in the ignition.

I learned that lesson the hard way. Nothing makes you feel more foolish than committing a blunder like that in front of 3 clients, trust me. Luckily I was only 5 min-



Chuck Uzzle



Successful trips where the details are taken care of puts smiles on every fisherman's face.

utes from my house and was able to retrieve my spare so essentially it was no harm no foul. I have however seen the really bad version of this event unfold on an extended road trip 100 miles from home. The feeling of excitement one gets from the opportunity to fish a new body of water is quickly erased once everyone realizes there is no way to start the boat and no place to get a new key. Buzz kill does not begin to

describe that ride home.

Speaking of forgetting things I have had clients forget all sorts of gear. I've had them show up with no rods. I've had them show up with no reels. More than a couple of occasions they have also shown up without various pieces of wading gear up to and including waders, jackets, and most often boots. Typically I can accommodate folks because I keep several spare sets but on occasion it

just doesn't work out when you try to put someone who is 6 foot 3 in waders made for those of us who are "vertically challenged".

As far as waders go I have had my own difficulties as of late and I have no one to blame but myself. On a recent duck hunt I picked up a pair of my Gulf Coast breathable waders that I wear for both fishing and hunting at this time of the year and stuffed them in my wader

weighing 12.02-pounds.

Jacob Longlois and Tanner Stewart finished less than a pound behind them with a five fish limit weighing 11.22-pounds. James and Cooper's catch was less than a small crawfish off the winning stringer which weighed 12.08-pounds.

It is officially "game on" now for the high school clubs and several of the teams have legitimate shots at qualifying for the National Championship. Here's hoping they will get it done early!

tic tail in your favorite color can be just as effective when soaked with a liquid or spray scent.

Staying put once you find a few fish is equally important in bone chilling weather. The fish are not going to be chasing even the most appealing meal very far and light strikes will attest to that fact.

I was not surprised that two of the LCM bass fishing teams started their season right last weekend by finishing second and third in the Deep East Texas High School Tournament held on Rayburn. Justin James and Gavin Cooper took second place honors with a five bass limit

Colburn From Page 1

know that a respectable bite is possible. More especially for the angler in possession of the white grubs.

If you have an opportunity to get out, I would at least start by duplicating Cade and Gail's program. When the marsh is sucked down to mud, there is not much point in working the shallow drains that are so good on a falling tide. If there is no bait exiting the marsh there is no reason for the fish to be there.

Gulp does not make the only scented tail on the market, but that scent is important when probing deeper water that is extremely muddy on top. Any regular plas-

bag for a hunt the following day. In the dark I reached in the wader bag and pulled out my boots first and then grabbed my waders, or so I thought. I unrolled the pair only to realize that they had no stocking feet on them! I had taken this particular set that I replaced and cut the feet out of them to leave in my truck for use as raingear or while training dogs at the pond.

There was nothing I could do but take my medicine, wear them, and make the best out of it. Needless to say my hunting partners were extremely amused at my misfortune and all I could do was laugh with them. Fortunately for me it was not really cold and I managed to make due. From that point on I have made it a habit to double check my gear. Lesson learned.

With the days still feeling like the holiday season I guess we could laugh at one more example that involves "giving". On a weekend trip to Matagorda Bay I had taken all the precautions necessary for the trip, trailer lights were in order, wheel bearings were greased, spare tire along with a good jack were packed, and it was all strapped down and road ready. Or so I thought. We made the drive with no stops

until we hit Matagorda and stopped to put gas in the boat and grab a few snacks. As I walked around the boat something didn't seem right but I couldn't quite put my finger on it. Finally it hit me and all I could do was stand there and stare at the spot where my 21 foot Stiffy push pole was supposed be. Yes, somewhere along the way I had lost my push pole and some lucky individual had gotten a very nice Christmas present. I was sick about the whole deal but there was nothing I could do about it except put an ice bag on my feelings and go on about my business. You can rest assured I never leave my driveway without my new push pole being properly secured.

Now there are plenty of other crazy things that have happened to me while on the water or at least on the way to it and I am sure there will be more. Each one has taught me a lesson and provided some sort of entertainment for those involved. It's easy to look back and laugh at all the mishaps because they trigger some great memories. It's always been said "if you can't laugh at yourself then you may be wound too tight", I have no problem laughing at myself and I hope that some of my episodes will help keep you from your own mishaps.

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Kaz's Korner From Page 1B

champion Seahawks and pretty much dominated the action, winning 30-20.

And when two teams play each other for the third time in a season, there won't be many surprises either team can use that hasn't already been seen during the regular season. The third time can be the charm if a team can eliminate mistakes made in the 16-game regular season.

And as the old saying goes, "offense wins games but defense wins championships" the Rams defense made life so miserable for Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson that he completed only 11 of 27 passes for a very sub-par 40.7 percentage, the second worst of Wilson's career.

And ever since Seattle Coach Pete Carroll disbanded the Legion of Boom defensive backfield, opponents have been running up big scores on Seattle, forcing Wilson to outscore them with his passing and running, which he had done.

It was pointed out on ESPN Monday morning that the Seahawks have not gotten an impact player in the first round that worked out for them in 10 years since they drafted Orange's Earl Thomas in the first round. But when it came time to extend the contracts of both Thomas and Wilson, Seattle gave their quarterback the big bucks and sent Earl packing.

Another third match of the season occurred in Pittsburgh Sunday night when the Cleveland Browns opened the game by recovering a snap over Steeler quarterback Ben Roethlisberger's head in the end zone for an easy touchdown.

Things went from bad to worse for the Steelers, who

found themselves behind 28-0 before the first quarter was over and 35-10 at the half.

Although Roethlisberger threw for 501 yards and four touchdowns, his demise came with the four Cleveland interceptions, as Pittsburgh fell too far behind to catch up and were eliminated from the playoffs by Cleveland's stunning 48-37 victory.

Teams that were supposed to win and advanced to this weekend's Divisional Round were the Buffalo Bills—27-24 winners over scrappy Indianapolis--New Orleans—which stymied the Chicago Bears 21-9—and wild card Tampa Bay which downed NFC East champ Washington 31-23.

Green Bay and Kansas City, the two teams that earned byes last week, swing back into action as the Packers host the LA Rams—the NFL's top defensive team—on Saturday while the Chiefs welcome Cleveland to Arrowhead Stadium Sunday.

Perhaps the best match-up this weekend will occur at Buffalo when the Bills entertain the red-hot Baltimore Ravens. Both are high-scoring teams with quarterbacks that like to run with the football. Buffalo moved on in the playoffs for the first time since 1995.

Although Baltimore benefited from a schedule featuring the five weakest teams to finish the season with five victories, quarterback Lamar Jackson finally got the monkey off his back by winning a playoff game Sunday when the Ravens pounded out 236 yards on the ground (136 by Jackson).

Baltimore's defense sty-

mied Tennessee's Derrick Henry, holding him to 40 yards on 18 carries. My Upset Special of this week is Baltimore beating the Bills Saturday.

However, the game that should get the most hype this week is Tampa Bay at New Orleans which will feature the NFL's two graybeard over 40-year-old quarterbacks--Tom Brady of the Buccaneers and Drew Brees of the Saints—as New Orleans tries to beat Tampa Bay for the third time this season.

The 43-year-old Brady has started in more than 40 playoff games while Brees could very well be playing for his final Super Bowl as he's been hinting of retiring all season long.

Brady, who has set many NFL records, broke another one Saturday that had lasted for 50 years, passing George Blanda to become the oldest player to throw a touchdown pass in a playoff game.

KWICKIES...

While the good teams were preparing for the Wild Card Playoffs last week, the Dallas Cowboys were trying to fix their porous defense by firing defensive coordinator Mike Nolan and relieving defensive line coach Jim Tom-sula of his duties. Cowboy officials interviewed Joe Whitt, Jr. and Jason Simmons on Sunday for the vacant defensive coordinator position. All NFL teams must interview one minority for a coordinators position and the Cowboys have fulfilled that requirement by interviewing two African-American prospects in Whitt and Simmons. But on Monday, the Cowboy's hired

former Atlanta Falcon's head coach Dan Quinn, who had the same defensive coordinator position with the Seattle Seahawks when Orange's Earl Thomas played there.

Tennessee's stellar running back Derrick Henry is the first player to lead the NFL in rushes, yards and touchdowns in consecutive years since Leroy Kelly did it in 1967-68.

Only six times in NFL playoff history has a quarterback rushed for 200 or more yards and Baltimore's Lamar Jackson has done it twice. The other quarterback to do it was Colin Kaepernick, and he also did it twice a few seasons back.

When New Orleans quarterback Drew Brees connected with Michael Thomas on an 11-yard touchdown pass in the first period of Sunday's 21-9 win over the Chicago Bears, it marked the 17th consecutive playoff game in which Brees has thrown a touchdown pass.

JUST BETWEEN US...

When the Houston Texans hired Nick Caserio as their new general manager, it really threw quarterback Deshaun Watson's nose out of joint. He was under the impression from all the hype the week before that he was to be involved in the hiring of their new general manager and new head coach. The front office is doing everything it can to soothe their franchise quarterback, who refused to return any phone calls and has even hinted of demanding a trade. The soap opera never stops on Kirby Drive in Houston.

Kaz's Fearless Football Forecast...

AFC

BALTIMORE RAVENS (12-6) over BUFFALO BILLS (14-3) 7:15 p.m. Saturday at Buffalo (NBC)—MY PROJECTED SCORE—Baltimore 31- Buffalo 27 (Upset Special).

KANSAS CITY CHIEFS (14-2) over CLEVELAND BROWNS (12-5) 2:05 p.m. Sunday at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Mo. (CBS)—MY PROJECTED SCORE—Kansas City 34-Cleveland 20.

NFC

GREEN BAY PACKERS (13-3) over LOS ANGELES

RAMS (11-6) 3:35 p.m. Saturday at Lambeau Field in Green Bay, WI. (Fox)-- MY PROJECTED SCORE—Green Bay 33-LA Rams 24.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS (13-4) over TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS (12-5) 5:40 p.m. Sunday at Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans, La. (Fox)—MY PROJECTED SCORE—New Orleans 27-Tampa Bay 21.

COLLEGE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

ALABAMA (12-0) over OHIO STATE (7-0) 7 p.m. Monday at Miami, FL., (ESPN)-- MY PROJECTED SCORE—Alabama 47-Ohio State 38.

Master Gardeners Online Certification Class

The Orange County Master Gardeners in conjunction with Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will be offering online classes for Texas Master Gardener Certification. Deadline for enrolling is Thursday, Jan 21. Classes will start Thursday, Jan. 28 from 9AM - 1PM running each Thursday thru Thursday April 1. All classes will be virtual. Fee for the class is \$150 which will include your 464 page colored handbook, fees and supplies. Email ocmg1990@gmail.com for your application or more information visit our website.



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Texas Legislature convenes for 2021, five things to watch

CASSANDRA POLLOCK
The Texas Tribune

The 2021 session of the Texas Legislature commenced Tuesday under pervasive uncertainty.

Lawmakers have been waiting for months to see how it will be conducted safely as the coronavirus pandemic rages.

And after a pro-Donald Trump mob rushed into the U.S. Capitol last week, leaving five people dead and leading to dozens of arrests, some Texas lawmakers are on edge about the potential for unrest in Austin.

Meanwhile, three clear top priorities have emerged for the agenda: the budget, redistricting and the pandemic. But it remains to be seen how much space — or political appetite — there will be for more polarizing proposals, especially among Republicans coming off a successful November election.

Given all that, here are the five things to watch as the session kicks off:

• **Safety protocols**

State legislatures across the country are looking for ways to conduct their business in spite of restrictions on indoor gatherings because of the coronavirus.

Already, two Texas House Democrats — Michelle Beckley of Carrollton and Ana-Maria Ramos of Richardson — have said they will not attend the opening day of the legislative session, calling the gathering of 150 House members a “superspreader event.”

For Tuesday, the Texas House and Senate have put in precautions for members and invited guests in each chamber;

Beyond opening day, State Rep. Dade Phelan has asked a group of lawmakers to make recommendations and solicit input from members on what changes should be made to the chamber’s rules. The Senate, meanwhile, has been more tight-lipped on what precautions will be in place during the legislative session.

Since the Capitol closed in mid-March, both Democrats and Republicans from each chamber have raised questions about the accessibility of the legislative process. State Rep. Briscoe Cain, R-Deer Park, asked the attorney general to weigh in on whether the Legislature has the power to close the Capitol and whether members could debate or vote on legislation from outside the chamber.

• **Big-ticket items**

Tackling the state’s current two-year budget — and writing the next one — will be one of the largest items on the Legislature’s plate, though lawmakers received better-than-expected news Monday when Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar unveiled the biennial revenue estimate.

On top of that, the Legislature will also need to redraw the state’s political maps, which is often a polarizing and draining process for lawmakers.

Lawmakers will also have to respond to the ongoing pandemic and address other policy issues that have been focal points throughout the pandemic, such as public education funding and health care. In 2019, the Legislature overhauled the state’s school finance system, infusing \$6.5 billion more into public schools and roughly \$5.1 billion to lower Texans’ property tax bills.

The Texas Legislative Black Caucus has already unveiled the George Floyd Act, a sweeping reform proposal that would, among other things, ban chokeholds across the state and address qualified

immunity, which shields government officials from litigation.

Lawmakers from both parties may also push election-related matters after fights over voter access and ballot integrity largely defined the lead up to the November presidential election.

And yearslong conversations over new revenue sources — such as legalizing casino or marijuana — have also seemed to get a renewed focus, though it’s unclear how seriously lawmakers will consider such options after Hegar’s news Monday with a better-than-expected economic picture heading into session.

• **A new speaker**

One of the House’s first orders of business Tuesday will be to formally elect a speaker.

Phelan, who has served in the lower chamber since 2015, announced he had the votes to win the gavel in the hours after Election Day, after Republicans maintained control of the House.

He’s described among colleagues as a straight-shooter who’s familiar with the legislative process and the policies at play, and who intends to lead the chamber by letting the members drive its business.

Beyond the budget and redistricting, Phelan said during an interview Monday with Texas Tribune CEO Evan Smith that public health issues that the pandemic has “put a highlighter” on what will be a focus this session, such as expanding telemedicine and telehealth and “improving rural health care options for Texans.”

• **GOP family fights**

Texas Republicans are beginning the session two months after a November election in which they beat expectations up and down the ballot, including holding on to their majority in the state House. Emboldened by the election results, will there be a renewed appetite among the most conservative in the party for hot-button issues, or will the Legislature continue on the middle-of-the-road policy path it stuck to for the 2019 session?

Early indications are that the Big Three — Abbott, Patrick and Phelan — are not spoiling for much intraparty conflict this session. That seems especially true with the trio of must-do issues already topping the legislative agenda: the budget, redistricting and responding to the pandemic.

Still, there is potential for some GOP family fights. Texas GOP Chairman Allen West plans to make an aggressive push for the party’s eight legislative priorities, which include election integrity, the abolition of abortion and constitutional carry, or licenseless carry of firearms. Some of the priorities enjoy broad GOP support, others not as much.

Rallying support for the pri-

orities Saturday outside the Capitol, West told Republicans he was preparing them for an “ideological battlefield” and that they needed to pressure lawmakers “so that you can become a powerful force and let people know in that building that they work for you, that you don’t work for them.”

To that end, the 2022 primary season could also loom large over Republicans this session. Most statewide officials are up for reelection, including Abbott and Patrick, and their agendas could reflect how they would like to position themselves for March 2022.

• **Senate rules**

One issue that could impact whether the GOP engages in such a fight is whether it holds onto its complete control of the Senate.

Right now, Senate rules require 19 members, or three-fifths of the body, to vote to bring legislation to the floor. With the reelection defeat of Sen. Pete Flores, R-Pleasanton, there are only 18 Republicans in the chamber.

Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, however, has announced his intention to lower the threshold to align with the size of the GOP majority — a move that effectively strips Senate Democrats of the one tool they have to block legislation they unanimously oppose.

Patrick doesn’t have unilateral control of the Senate threshold’s fate. Such a change requires a simple majority — 16 senators — to go into effect. It’s not immediately clear how many Republican senators are in favor of such a move, while some Democrats have already denounced Patrick’s latest procedural proposal.

To be clear, this isn’t the first time Patrick oversaw a decrease in the threshold. During his first session as lieutenant governor in 2015, the Senate dropped the threshold from two-thirds, or 21 members, to three-fifths, or 19 members. At that time, there were 20 Republican senators.

‘Grandma’s’ now open in Orange County location

Staff Report
For The Record

Grandma’s Country Cooking has been open for several weeks in Bridge City amongst the delays of Covid 19 and Hurricanes last year. The new restaurant features home cooking from family recipes and is located in Bridge City at 33 Patillo Road. The original Grandma’s which operates in Port Arthur on 9th Avenue has been a favorite of many for over 2 years.

They have been voted best plate lunch both years.

They have a set special each day, except Sunday. The specials come with two sides, bread and tea for \$10.99. Grandma’s daily specials are: Monday-hamburger steak; Tuesday-meatloaf; Wednesday-pork roast; Thursday-beef tips; Friday-Shrimp; and Saturday-Whole Catfish for \$14.99.

The restaurant manager “BW” Chipman, wants everyone to know they are so much more than home cooking. They offer fried shrimp, fried fish and also heart healthy versions of grilled shrimp and fish. Many love ordering the whole fried catfish they

serve. Chipman says “It’s two pounds, and fills the whole plate.”

The chicken and sausage gumbo, as well as the delicious shrimp gumbo, is a 32 oz serving and is a favorite among diners. We can even provide gumbo by the gallons. Especially during this cold weather we have been experiencing.

“We have a very popular lunch crowd, because we specialize in getting people in and out real quick,” said Chipman.

“We’re a full service dine-in restaurant, curb side take out and catering your events or family meals” said Chipman. Don’t forget about the great desserts and cobblers Grandma’s offers daily too.

“We want Orange county to come see why “Life truly is better at Grandma’s,” Chipman adds.

Hours are 11 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon.-Fri., 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Sat. and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sundays.

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The Bridge City Grandma’s is located at 33 Patillo Road in Bridge City.

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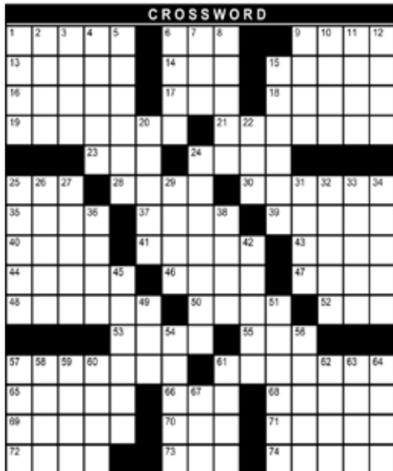
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ACROSS
1. Nothing-but-net in basketball
6. "Zip it!"
9. The _____ in Switzerland
13. Ann Patchett's novel "Bel _____"
14. "Mele Kalikimaka" wreath
15. Ten million, in India
16. Fire in one's soul
17. Crematorium jar
18. Trail follower
19. "Artist with most 2021 Grammy nominations"
21. "Powerhouse Award 2020" winner with six 2021 nominations
23. _____ Sayer's "You Make Me Feel Like Dancing"
24. Pettifoggery
25. Lending letters
28. "Through" in text
30. Butcher's discards
35. Fortune-telling coffee remnant
37. Crew equipment
39. Asian goat antelope
40. "Polar Express" roof rider
41. Toughness

43. "Two-time Grammy winner Kelly
44. Watch word?
46. "Best New Artist nominee" Cyrus
47. "Clueless" catch phrase
48. "Black Pumas" nominated record
50. Hand-me-down
52. NYC time zone
53. _____ Loaf, winner of one Grammy
55. Nirvana's "Come as You _____"
57. "Post Malone's twice-nominated work"
61. "Venue of 2021 Grammy Awards"
65. Dig, so to speak
66. Reunion bunch
68. Silk-patterned fabric
69. On Elsa of Arendelle's head
70. Historical period
71. Join the cast of two words
72. Balkan native
73. Dog's greeting
74. Bed cover

DOWN
1. Union foe
2. Stuff for sale, sing.
3. Capital of Indiana, for short
4. Counter seat
5. "The Green _____"
6. Swerve
7. "I Can't Breathe" artist
8. Delhi language
9. Seed coat
10. Trickster in Norse mythology
11. Like "Dead Poets Society" school
12. Blood fluids
15. Winnowing remains, pl.
20. Salmon variety, pl.
22. Flying saucer acronym
24. Event attendance
25. Kind of committee, two words
26. Movie trailer, e.g.
27. He had no cause?
29. _____ on "Me" by Lady Gaga and Ariana Grande
31. Cheese on Peloponnese
32. "...when out on the lawn there _____ such a clatter..."
33. Large-eyed lemur
34. "Folklore" nominee and recipient of 10 Grammys
36. Nancy Sinatra's boots
38. Sinbad's seven
42. Semolina source

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Independent Administration for the Estate of **HELEN BARBARA BASS**, Deceased, were issued on **JANUARY 8, 2021**, in Cause No. **P18900**, pending in the County Court at Law of Orange County, Texas, to: **Rhaetta Ruth Gennusa**.

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.

Rhaetta Ruth Gennusa
c/o: Stephen C. Howard
Attorney at Law
903 W. Green Avenue
Orange, Texas 77630

DATED the 8th day of January, 2021.

Stephen Howard
Stephen Howard
Attorney for:
Rhaetta Ruth Gennusa
State Bar No.:10079400
903 W. Green Avenue
Orange, TX 77630
Phone: (409)883-0202
Fax: (409)883-0209
Email: steve@stevehoward.lawyer

45. Cloth armband
49. Get the picture
51. Movie genre, pl.
54. Off kilter
56. Longer than #70 Across
57. A and B, e.g.
58. Doing nothing
59. "Katy Perry's 2013 Grammy-nominated song"
60. Stewie Griffin's bed
61. Unforeseen obstacle
62. Low-cal
63. One of Great Lakes
64. Email folder
67. Composer Gershwin

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 § 38.209 and 16 TAC § 25.239. A TCRF allows a utility to recover its reasonable and necessary costs that have occurred since the end of the test year in the utility's last base rate case for transmission infrastructure improvement and changes in wholesale transmission charges to the electric utility under a tariff approved by a federal regulatory authority. In its requested amendment, ETI is seeking recovery of costs for transmission capital investments it incurred from July 1, 2019 through August 31, 2020. ETI also seeks to recover approved transmission charges that are not otherwise being recovered through rates.

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

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

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

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

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

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AA meetings are being offered on Tuesday (open) and Thursday (closed) mornings at 9:30 am at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, located at 945 W. Roundbunch Road, Bridge City. 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

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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 p.m.

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