

Penny Record

Vol. 65 No. 24

Distributed **FREE** To The Citizens of Bridge City and Orangefield

Week of Wednesday, November 13, 2024

Cities ready to deck the halls



The Stark Museum of Art is having a special "Reindeer Trail" exhibit tying in the artwork of reindeer and wildlife artwork in the museum's collection with a colorful and sparkling array of model reindeer decorated by area artists.

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

Christmas activities will be getting in full swing after Thanksgiving with West Orange kicking the season off on Monday, December 2, plus Bridge City and Orange having parades on Saturday, December 7.

Bridge City will also be having Christmas in the Park and the community tree lighting the evening of Friday, December 6, from 6 to 9 p.m. Christmas in the Park is sponsored by the city of Bridge

City at the park off West Roundbunch Road.

Openings are still available for food trucks and vendors. People interested in one of those may call Jeanie or Kim at 409-735-6801. Christmas in the Park has a community "Reverse Santa." Santa will be available for kids of all ages to take photos. In return, Santa is asking everyone getting a picture to donate a new, unwrapped toy to be donated to the Bridge City-Orangefield Ministerial Alliance for families facing a hard financial time during the holidays.

The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring the 15th Annual Christmas Lighted Parade on Saturday, December 7, beginning at 6 p.m. The

parade will begin at the First Baptist Church on West Roundbunch Road, off FM 1442, and travel northward to the area of the Bridge City Interme-

diat School.

Entry fee is a new, unwrapped toy to donate to the Bridge City-Orangefield Ministerial Alliance. The theme for the parade

is "Christmas on the Bayou." Though entrants do not have to follow the them, the Mayor's Trophy

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The family of the late A. J. Judice were honored in his name Tuesday at the BC Chamber of Commerce coffee. The A. J. Judice Family Legacy has been named as this year's Bridge City Christmas Parade Marshal. Pictured left to right: Scot C. Shaffer, Al Judice IV, Michelle & Al Judice III; Amy Townsend, Larry & Brenda Judice; Paul & Debbie Roy; Carson, Kelsey & Chuck Bounds; and Adia & Alicia Romero.

A.J. Judice cajun legacy honored by BC Chamber

PENNYLELEUX
For The Record

The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce announced Tuesday that A.J. Judice's Family Legacy was named as this year's Bridge City Christmas Parade Marshal. The "Christmas on the Bayou" parade will be held Dec. 7 at 6 p.m. taking its usual path down West Roundbunch Road starting at First Baptist Church and concluding at Bridge City Elementary.

Scot C. Shaffer said he asked many in the area who they think of when they hear 'Bridge City Bayou' and an overwhelming 75% said A.J. Judice. "I didn't ask just a few, I even posted it on Facebook and other social media," he said.

A.J.'s daughter-in-law, Michelle Judice read a statement at the announcement thanking the BCCC for honoring his memory this way and giving a little of the Judice family history.

"A.J. and Lois bought their fish camp on Cottage Lane, in 1963," she said. "The people of Bridge



Cherished family photo of A.J. Judice leading a Mardi Gras "dingaling" parade many years ago. Photo courtesy of Judice family.

City welcomed them with open hearts, and he met dozens of kindred souls who had Louisiana roots, those who also loved boudin and crawfish and shared his 'joie de vivre.'"

She said he retired in 1976 after

remodeling the fish camp and moved to Bridge City from Port Arthur to live her full time. "He loved the grocery business but what he loved even more was

A.J. Judice Page 3A

Orange deals with income losses

MARGARET TOAL
For The Record

The city of Orange is down \$2 million in sales tax revenues through the first eight months of the year, adding to another deficit because of industrial loses.

The Texas Comptrollers Office reports that the city collected \$596,552 for August, a decrease of 21.1 percent from August of 2023, plus the city had collected \$6 million for calendar 2024, compared to \$8 million for the same period in 2023.

The sales tax income is

used as part of the city's general fund that pays for general operations like employee salaries and benefits, fire and police protection, along with parks, the library, and road repairs. The water and sewer department is a revenue fund, meaning it is paid for with income from the fees charged for water and sewer services.

Other separate funds include economic development, financed by a half cent per dollar sales tax approved by voters, and

Orange deals Page 2A

West Orange to spruce up in Fall Clean-up

West Orange is sprucing up for the holiday season with the Fall Clean-Up on Saturday, November 16. Residents of the city may take items like old furniture, appliances, and yard wastes to a site for disposal from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Plus, volunteers will be picking up litter from 8 a.m. to noon.

The disposal site will be by the West Orange Fire Department on Austin Street behind city hall. Only residents of the city will be allowed to use the disposal service. Proof of residency along with a photo identification will

be required to leave the items.

No hazardous wastes will be accepted. Those items include tires, batteries, paint, insecticides, and cleaners. In addition, any item with freon, such as a refrigerator or freezer, will require that the chemical has been removed by a certified person and tagged to indicate the removal.

Individuals, civic groups, and other organizations are volunteering to go through the town picking up litter from 8 a.m. to noon. The Keep Orange County Beautiful

group will provide gloves, grabbers, and trash bags. In addition, that group will hand out bluebonnet seeds to be spread to areas in the city.

HEB has donated two \$50 gift cards to be awarded to the individual and group picking up the most litter. Team Granger is sponsoring Big Daddy's food truck to give volunteers free hot dogs and drinks for lunch.

People wanting to volunteer for the litter clean-up should call 409-886-1264 to register as an individual or group.

Taryn Doiron takes volleyball prowess to the next level

Taryn Doiron from Bridge City will play her final two seasons of college volleyball at Lamar University.

Doiron was selected as the Dallas Athletic Conference "Setter of the Year" for the second consecutive year. She leads the National Junior College Athletic Association Division III in assists (1,068) entering this week's national tournament in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Doiron is second in the country in assists per set (11.24).

She had a career-high 62 assists in a five-set win at NJCAA Division I Temple College. Doiron has 50 or more assists in four matches this year. She had five aces in sweeps of nationally-ranked



Taryn Doiron

Dallas College Brookhaven and against Dallas College Mountain View.

Doiron was an NJCAA Division III First Team All-American as a freshman. Eastfield went 35-0 to win the national championship last year.

The No. 1-ranked Harvester Bees (30-1)

play Harrisburg Area Community College (18-10) in the opening round of the NJCAA Division III National Tournament 1 p.m. CT Thursday. The quarterfinals will also be held Thursday. The championship match is Saturday.

Golden Triangle Polymers donates \$20,000 to VFW



Golden Triangle Polymers plant manager Chad Jennings, center, presented a \$20,000 donation to VFW Post 2775 in Orange today. The donation was part of a special Veteran's Day appreciation lunch and ceremony hosted by VFW Post 2775.



Bridge City High School held a special ceremony before last week's football game to honor graduate Chase Shugart by retiring his baseball jersey number. The former Cardinal football and baseball player was a pitching standout at the University of Texas before being drafted into professional baseball. He made his major league debut this year with the Boston Red Sox.

Orange deals with income From Page 1

the hotel occupancy tax, paid by people who rent hotel rooms in the city. State law restricts the uses of those incomes.

The city's general fund also uses property taxes and payments from industries through Industrial District Contracts, or IDCs. The IDCs are negotiated between the city and industries within the city's extra-territorial jurisdiction. The payments are negotiated to be a percentage of what the industrial plant would pay in full taxes if the plant was within the city limits. In return, the city agrees not to annex the industrial plant.

The agreements have been common since the 1950s.

Orange City Manager Mike Kunst said last year the Invista plant was to be closed. The Invista plant was part of the original 1947 DuPont fibers plant that was bought by Koch Industries 22 years ago. The plant is on FM 1006, known locally as Chemical Row.

Also, International Paper closed the 1967 paper mill north of Orange that was built as by Owens-Illinois and went through several owners.

Both those plants had IDCs with the city and the city expected to lose \$2

million from the general fund because of those closings.

However, in October, Invista announced it was going to open back up part of its plant. Kunst said the calculations haven't been made yet on how much income that could bring in for the city.

The opening would also benefit the county and the West Orange-Cove school district.

The sales tax revenues are reported by the comptroller's office by calendar year, and the city operates on a budget year that runs October 1 through Septem-

ber 30 each year. Public entities with similar fiscal year dates begin working on their new budgets during summers with elected officials giving approvals to the budgets in September.

Kunst said the city could see the trend in the dropping sales taxes and knew of the decline of the income from the two plant closings. All city departments were asked to cut their budgets 10 percent to help make up for the losses; so Kunst does not see any financial problems for the city in the next months.

The Record Newspapers of Orange County, Texas

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

Roy Dunn - Publisher
Margaret Toal - News Director
Mark Dunn - Production
Dan Perrine - Sports Editor
Janelle Sehon - Business Manager

409-886-7183

or 409-313-6611

E-mail: news@therecordlive.com
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Local cities deck the halls From Page 1

and a \$200 prize will be awarded to the entry judged to be best with the theme.

Entry forms and information are available through the Bridge City chamber at 150 West Roundbunch Road or by calling the chamber at 409-735-5671.

The Kiwanis Club of Orange is sponsoring the 75th annual Christmas Parade through down-

town Orange on Saturday, December 7, beginning at 6 p.m.

The parade was started soon after World War II by the Orange Jaycees. The Kiwanis Club picked up the sponsorship after the Jaycees abandoned the event.

The theme this year is a patriotic "Red, White, and Blue." Entries may be made through the Kiwanis Club of Orange Facebook

page or online.

The parade isn't the only yule activity by the Kiwanis that day. From 7:30 a.m. to 10 a.m., the civic club will hold its annual fund-raising "Breakfast with Santa" at Spanky's Restaurant on 16th Street in Orange.

The tickets are \$12 and include a pancake breakfast plus a visit with Santa for photographs. Tickets are available at Spanky's

or through Kiwanis members and the club's Facebook page.

The Stark Museum of Art is having a special "Reindeer Trail" exhibit tying in the artwork of reindeer and wildlife artwork in the museum's collection with a colorful and sparkling array of model reindeer decorated by area artists.

On Saturday, December 7, the museum will have

an open house from 2 to 7 p.m., conveniently allowing parade-goers a chance to make a tour before gathering outside along Green Avenue to see the floats.

The Reindeer Trails exhibit will be opening November 20 through December 21.

Shangri La Botanical Gardens, another Stark Cultural Venue, will have its lighted Christmas walks Tuesdays through Saturdays from 6 to 9 p.m.

beginning December 3 through December 21. The Record newspapers will have more on the lighted gardens in future editions.

West Orange starts the season off with its annual Christmas tree lighting celebration on Monday, December 2, at 6 p.m. Santa will visit with children and refreshments will be served. The event is held outside City Hall on Western Avenue.

A.J. Judice family honors From Page 1



Three of the late A.J. Judice's five children were at the gathering to accept the award in their father's honor. Left to right: Al Judice III, Larry Judice and Debbie Judice Roy.

his father. "Dad could be found heading down the bayou in his pirogue or in his motorized 8-foot-long fiberglass boat "La Petite Bateau," for pre-dawn coffee drinking

anywhere he saw a light on in a window, escorted by and speaking to the ducks, egrets, nutria rats, and an alligator every so often."

He talked about how his mother would tell his dad not to feed the raccoons, but he would slip them slices of bread and share his cat's food with them.

"They grew so comfortable being fed that one day a momma raccoon brought her babies into the house for a little afternoon snack when the bay-

ou side door was left open," he stated.

Judice's legacy is certainly fitting for this year's parade theme of "Christmas on the Bayou." The entire Judice family will don his iconic white button down shirt and red beret. Michelle Judice said they were going to fill the pontoon boat, air boat and mud boat.

Al Judice III said his dad was involved in some of the earlier parades, which were held on Texas Avenue.

"He bragged he was the last person in the parade: the one who scooped up what the parade horses left behind."

What a legacy. Laissez les bons temps rouler!

promoting the Cajun culture."

"He is still remembered for the crawfish races at area schools and local festivals, and for reading the Cajun

Night Before Christmas to generations of children, in person and on local tv."

He was named the Texas Crawfish Racing Commissioner by Texas Governor Preston Smith in the early 1960s.

"AJ was funny and kind, a sincere, mischievous, entertaining character who was genuinely interested in people. He would be so happy and proud to be named parade marshal," she said. "He would have had A LOT to say about this honor, and we would all be here for a second hour listening to his stories about his love of Bridge City and its people, his Cow Bayou adventures, and telling a few Boudreaux & Thibodeaux jokes."

His son Al Judice III relayed a couple of stories of

Salvation Army's Red Kettles returning

The Salvation Army is excited to announce the return of its annual Red Kettle Campaign in Orange, spreading joy and the festive spirit of Christmas. As The Salvation Army's primary fundraising initiative, the Red Kettle

Campaign plays a vital role in providing life-changing programs and services throughout the year. These programs include food assistance, emergency financial assistance, youth programs and disaster response.

From the beginning of November until Christmas Eve, red kettles will be stationed outside various stores and local businesses in Orange from Monday to Saturday.

Orange Library annual meeting features Thompson "WO-S Football, A Way of Life"

The Friends of the Orange Public Library, Inc. will hold its annual meeting Saturday, Nov. 16 at 10:30 a.m. in the Ira Williamson Meeting Room.

It will include a short business meet-

ing, and AAUW presentation of the "Library Family of the Year" award, and a book review of "WO-S Football, A Way of Life," given by author Cornell Thompson.

Light refreshments will be served.

Gum Drop Shop Dec. 7th

The Explore Orange - Convention and Visitors Bureau is bringing back the Gumdrop Shop Holiday Market at Stark Park in downtown Orange, 201 7th Street, Dec. 7, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Discover unique one-of-a-kind items from local vendors that you won't find anywhere else. Immerse yourself in a winter wonderland filled with lights, music, and the warmth of the holiday season. By shopping at the event, you're supporting local businesses and contributing to the community. From holiday crafts, activities, and entertainment, there's something for everyone to enjoy. The Kiwanis Christmas Parade is scheduled to be held at 6:00 pm in downtown Orange following the Gumdrop Shop.

Dogs and coolers will not be allowed at the Gumdrop Shop. Additional information may be obtained from the Convention & Visitors Bureau office at 409-883-1011.

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From the Creaux's Nest

U.S. MAY NEVER HAVE A 'MADAM PRESIDENT'

I would have liked to have a woman elected president but now I know it will never happen in my lifetime. There may never be a 'Madam President' in the United States. The Latino population will continue to grow and Latino men believe a woman's place is in the kitchen. They will never support a woman CEO. As much as they loved Bill Clinton, they voted against Hillary. Kamala never had a chance. She got 10 million less votes than Biden. I was one that argued that Biden should stay in the race once he announced. While Harris ran a strong race and her election would have been historic as the first woman president, Democrats did themselves no favors. Despite mounting concerns about his age and acuity, Biden remained the Democratic presidential nominee until withdrawing from the race following a disastrous debate performance during the summer. The Democratic Party quickly consolidated around Harris, but it left her little time to campaign, and the party remained fractured, particular over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. Our concerns about a second Trump presidency are myriad. They continue with his call for the mass deportation of immigrants, which has the potential to upend the economy and separate families. They extend to the potential harm of massive tariffs and the future of Ukraine. He will return to office twice impeached and a felon, having been convicted in a hush money case involving an affair with a porn star. Trump is a figure like no other in American politics, and many of those who served in his first administration have spoken out against him. Now Trump is considering executive order to purge generals. Where his leadership takes our nation during such an uncertain time remains to be seen but in the meantime there will be plenty of buyers remorse. Should Trump's extreme rhetoric become reality, it will ultimately fall to voters to respond with vigilance in 2026 and 2028.

TURNING BACK THE HANDS OF TIME 10 Years Ago-2014

The temperatures are expected to dip and last for a few days. Hopefully Jack Frost will stay away but it's time to pull out the jackets. Over the weekend Ms. Ginny was putting patches on "Neighbor" Cox's longjohns. Cox first got the longjohns in 1944, WWII issue. For 70 years Ginny has mended patches on those longjohns. Today they look like Dolly Parton's coat of many colors. She put the American flag on the back flap.***A Travis County grand jury indicted Rick Perry on two counts, abuse of official capacity and coercion of a public servant. Richard "Rick" Perry is accused of committing two felonies punishable by five to 99 years in prison. My bet is the Perry case will be swept under the rug. Perry was indicted fair and square. It would be laughable if it wasn't a serious charge by a grand jury that spent many months on the case.***We were sorry to hear about the death of Eula Mae "Granny Peanut" Leleux, 91, of Port Neches, who passed away Nov. 4. She is survived by four daughters and one son. Granny had eight grandchildren and 43 great-grandchildren and 30 great-great-grandchildren. One grandchild, Pattie Hanks, was former editor for this publication. Her parents are Lucy and Rene.***Earl Duhon, manager at Dupuis Tire and Service Center needs our help. Earl, one of those hardworking, conscientious guys recently was diagnosed with colon cancer. Earl is without insurance and will need help for blood work, MRI's, and all that follows.

20 Years Ago-2004

Judge Pat Clark and Attorney Sharon Bearden are both playing with and bragging about new grand babies.***There were nine girls involved in "Locks of Life." They all agreed to grow 10 inches of hair and donate it to a cancer child who had no hair. A dinner honoring them was held at Tequila's in Bridge City. The girls are Brittany Allen, Emily Eaves, Miranda Fiset, Emily Ginn, Chelsa Palmer, Carissa Thomas, Alex Vandenheiden and Molly Wappler. The girls cared for their hair, kept it healthy and months later, with tears in their eyes, parted with their beautiful locks for a good cause.***Secretary of State Colin Powell says he will not stay for a second term under George W. Bush. He opposed the invasion of Iraq and was embarrassed by his presentation to the U.N. It was expected that Bush would name Condoleezza Rice to succeed Powell. (Editor's note: The U.S. went on to occupy Iraq.)***The West Orange- Stark 2004 Mustangs will have good memories for years to come despite a 30-28 loss to Huffman. The Mustangs, in their first year in 24-3A, are district champions. They got there by beating Bridge City 27-21 in overtime. WO-S recovered a Bridge City fumble and scored the overtime touchdown.***The Texas Aggies beat Texas Tech 32-25 in overtime. WO-S star Kenny Franks caught two great passes, one for 48 yards and one for a TD.***Sean Cade Gros celebrates his 14th birthday.***Ms. Phyl is in Hot Springs where her mom Amy is in grave condition.***Ruth "Bear" and Richard Corder celebrates 41 years of marriage on Nov. 14.

THE YEAR OF THE TIGER 1962 Tigers called "The Zing Along Gang."

I wrote the following all those years ago and am getting to use it again in 2024. It's a historic keeper. I'm proud to have written it and thankful to still be around to republish it.

62 Years Ago-1962

I've been following Orange County football for over 60 years and I don't believe any team ever had more talent than Stark High did in 1962. Wallace High, the Black team under Coach Willie Ray Smith and player Ernie Ladd had great teams in the 1950's; Bridge City and the Steve Worster gang went to the state playoffs in 1965 and won it in 1966. There was all the great championship teams at West Orange-Stark after integration but man to man, the 62' Tigers were one of those rare times when the milk is almost all cream. They lost in the semi-final game 13-20 to Pharr San Juan Alamo, played in Victoria, without All American quarterback David Foster and wingback Dan Sears, two key spokes in the perfect wheel. They were a three TD favorite with Foster playing. The stars on the team included almost the entire team. Billy Wayne Fiset was something else, he scored the first TD in the last loss, catching a pass from Steve Korby, replacing Foster. The Tigers led 7-6 at the half. In the beginning of the second half Danny Potter returned the kickoff 94 yards for a 13-6 Tiger lead before last minute turn arounds blew the game. Frank Beauchamp was named the year's best defensive player. Coach Ted Jefferies, a coach blessed with players like Charlie Owen, Curtis Hodge, Richard Copeland, R.C. Slocum, Dickie Colburn, Quincy Procull, Jack MacLelland and many more. Some of the kids in school at the time that I recall supporting their Tigers were freshmen David Claybar, Rex McCorquodale, Joey Robins, who became a star himself, M.B. Slocum and Jeep Colburn. Sophomores who stand out in my mind were Judy Spector, Randy "Skeeter" Stark, David Frenzel, Billy Barton, who passed on years ago and T-Ray Foreman. Juniors wondering around the campus were Dan Harris, Wanda Holts, who was raised in the county jail, J.B. Bearden, who became a baseball coach and died at a young age and Theresa Adams, who was chasing after Beauchamp and finally caught him. Seniors Tommy Harmon, recently retired from the Port of Orange, Benny Mazzola, Sammy Marion "Elvis" Owens, retired. Anthony Pendleton, first generation removed from England, Johnny Veatts, Tomas Barret, one of the famous Barret's. I wonder who remembers Percy VonEye and his sister Belva Joyce or pretty Janet Roach, Clytie Rudeseal, Speed and John Lea, Richard Terry or beautiful Peggy Roberts? What about Jo Hanna Leister who was football sweetheart, Maac Hughes, who is still around in Bridge City. Here's something you might not know, pretty Pauline Colburn was 8th grade class favorite. Dr. Pauline Hargrove, later superintendent of schools at Little Cypress-Mauriceville, Richard Ramira Travino became "Ricky" former mayor of Pinehurst. I bet everyone remembers coaches Ben Hart and John Certa. Not many will remember Coach Ralph Smith, who played for A&M and didn't stay around long. Just a few folks around in the great Tiger year of 1962. I believe 13 players got major college scholarship offers. Of course we know that R.C. Slocum is the winningest coach in Texas A&M history.

A FEW HAPPENINGS

The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce announced Tuesday that A.J. Judice's Family Legacy was named as this year's Bridge City Christmas Parade Marshal. Scot C. Shaffer said that he asked many in the area who they think of when they hear 'Bridge City Bayou' and an overwhelming 75% said A.J. Judice. His legacy is certainly fitting for this year's parade theme of "Christmas on the Bayou." The entire Judice family will don his iconic white button down shirt and red beret. Michelle Judice said they were going to fill the pontoon boat, air boat and mud boat. Laissez les bons temps rouler! He was a great friend for many years. I have many Judice stories like he and his red scooter crossing the Rainbow Bridge during a storm and feeling no pain.*** Jim Sharon and Cassie Bearden took their two little ones on a road trip to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. Traveling through scenic mountains in the fall can be peaceful and quiet. Be sure ask them about their serenity and whether they brought the llama back home with them.***Matt LaPray was named Volunteer of the Month at Shangri La Botanical Gardens. He began volunteering earlier this year as a greeter and now his duties include doing outpost boat tours along Adams Bayou into the natural parts of Shangri La.***Regina and Kristopher Marple, along with youngest Kody Paul, traveled to California to see the boot camp graduation ceremonies for their new Marine, Koltan Marple, a 2024 LC-M grad. Little bro Kody Paul is in elementary school and could hardly wait to see his brother.***Kudos to Benitris Petterway Edwards and Denise Sezer, along with the Gate City Guild No. 57 for taking lunch to the city of Orange's employees at the planning and public works building.***The annual fundraiser Cattle Baron's Ball was held in Beaumont last weekend. OC peeps seen there included Lori and Joel Ardoin, Misty Segrest, Scott Hasty, Dyan Eatman, Michelle Price, Christy Winn, Rick Bridgers, Al Granger, plus Matt and Brittany Chandler.***Christi and Chris Kovatch have long known son Stryker can provide some interesting stories. Last week after his team won a youth football championship, Stryker was signing his declared nickname of 'Big Sexy.'***We pulled up to Dow Gene and Charlotte's place last week and Anderson said, "This is your lucky day, today is okra picking day." He sent us home with a large supply of LSU okra. We ate some, boiled some, and smothered some for gumbo this winter.***Our buddy Penny Leleux's husband Gerald, who helps us with distribution of our papers, had a heart scare last Thursday. After spending the night in the hospital they sent him home with a clear report. Thank God for that.*** Judge Roy Derry Dunn has been in Methodist Hospital in Houston going on three weeks. He is fighting a half dozen health problems, four very serious and too complicated and technical for me to try to explain. Hopefully in two or three weeks he will be well enough to move to rehab. The oldest of his doctor sons, Mark, flew down from Oregon and helped care for his dad for several days. Derry is very sick but still has that great positive attitude. Jane, his wife, 'what a sweetheart' is constantly by his side. Hang in

there Judge and may God be by your side.***Former County Commissioner Owen Burton, who was raised with King Dunn's boys, is who tipped us off about Derry. Owen's wife Nelda, apparently was Christmas deprived as a child. She likes Christmas any time of the year. Friday she came home from her teaching job at LCM and Owen had a new gift, an expensive Zero mower waiting for her. She couldn't have been more excited if he had given her a new Cadillac.***We got to visit with Judge Chad Jenkins last Friday. He and Windee were in for a busy weekend cooking, etc. for the Orange County Special Angels Rodeo at T-2 arena. He took time to listen to a few stories. I hope he's recording them so he can pass them down.***Tuesday Sue and Tommy Simar were looking forward to a visit from Sue's niece who lives up north where Sue is from. They can't travel any more so visiting folks back home for Sue is in the past. Sue's son Bud cares for them. Sue's niece will be visiting till Nov. 20. We hope she has a nice visit. On March 26, they will be married 36 years.

BREAUX BIRTHDAYS THIS WEEK

A few of our friends celebrating birthdays in the next few days. Nov. 13: Karla Holden, Kimberly Ray, Karen Schrieber, Carol Lopez, Tim Johnson, Cecilia Broussard, Daniel Chesson, Darla Murphy, Cody Edgerton, Katie Hoffpauir.***Whoopi Goldberg from 'The View' turns 68 today and Jimmy Kimmel will be 56.***Nov. 14: Kristina Schisler, Lauren Peet, Traci Birmingham, Mary Dixon, Susie Riedel, Vicci Milligan, Anna Cappadona, Casey Smith.***Nov. 15: Judie Wilson, Julian Ocegquera, Cynthia Graham, Julie Smith, Stuart Bertles, Kelli Peery, Lindsey Franklin, Nikki Courtney, Travis Sheppard, Wade Barron, Wally Sieck, Chris Ford, Cora Betzen, Madison Miller.***Nov. 16: Dr. Servet Satir, Mary Loyd, Thad Angelle, Clarissa Cortez, Amaris Brown, Allene Manuel, Rebecca Collins, Bryson McFarland, Chris Byers. RaeAnna Todora, Dyanna Sandlin.***Nov. 17: Martha Foley, Laurie Kosh, Nancy Aycock, Barbara Musser, Katy Taylor.***Nov. 18: Theresa Evans, Lyndsie Neie, Melanie Claybar, Bryan Garrett, Leroy Gomez, Mickey Smith, Tim Bayliss, Aimee Huckabay, James Cornell, Kevin LeCourtere, Jonathan Vogt, Justin McCullough, Stephanie Williams.***Nov. 19: Kristina Denman, Meagan McGill, Linda Klein, Liz Harris, Shelly Ford, Trina Stringer Veronica Smith, Brandon Swarers, Murray Moreland.***Birthday greetings go out also to renaissance man Father Sinclair Oubre at St. Francis Catholic Church, Patricia Kemp, Rose Bottley, Fruit City First Lady Trisha James Spears, Brian Wickham, Judy Toney, Brittany Williams, Jackson Johnson, Ingria Jenkins, Wade Hanchey, Codie Smith Vasquez, Theresa Cronin, Bailee Burnett Maresh, Peg Shearer, Lauren Purgahn, Kristlynn Marie Jack, Susan King, Dustin Williams, and Alley Fontenot.***Happy 49th anniversary Nov. 13, to Debbie and David Fusilier and wish you guys many more.***Phillip and Pat Caillavet celebrated their 47th anniversary.***Others with anniversaries included Brian and Janet Wickham, and Nicholas and Claire Harvey.

FARMER'S MERCANTILE AN ORANGE COUNTY TREASURE

I was very impressed with Jo-Jo Harris' presentation of her family business, Farmer's Mercantile, on "Texas Country Reporter" in 2014 on a Sunday night. Bob Phillips did a good job featuring Orange County's most unique retail outlet. I first visited Gus Harris' mercantile in 1949. My dad and I, after getting haircuts at the Holland Hotel barber shop, where Joe Blanda was a barber, walked across the street to the store. Dad bought a small rope and bridle. There wasn't anything unique about the place back then. Every town had mercantile stores, some several. That was before super stores and today's big box stores. Today, Farmer's Mercantile store is unique because it remains virtually as it was 100 years ago when the Harris family first opened it. Gus came on board after the war. I remember Mr. Turner, Helen Ratcliff and a bunch of other hands who helped maneuver folks around the store much like Jo-Jo and the employees do today. You can still find many of the old items but over the years, new and modern farm products have come on the market. When you walk into this Orange landmark, you are walking back in time, when life was simpler, slower and the customers took time to visit about farm crops, their gardens, or the cattle business. Every time I stop by the store I see someone I have not come across in quite a while. On a visit several years ago I ran into Ernie Willy and son Sam. For years we were next-door neighbors to the mercantile store, in the Opportunity Valley News building. This time of year Gus always kept peanuts roasting on the stove. Surely Jo-Jo is still roasting peanuts. I buy all my plants there, even though over the years, the size of my crop has gotten smaller and smaller. Farmer's Mercantile is one of our treasures, like the Stark Museum, Lutch Theater and Shangri La. So next time you have out of town guest take them for a trip into the past, when their grandmother was a little girl, and the mercantile store was like going to today's super market. Hopefully, it will be around for many years until my grandchildren are old folks. (Editor's note: I wanted to reprint the above as a historical piece. When I'm gone there won't be anyone around who recalls Farmer's Mercantile going back to the 1940's.)***I'd better shut this down. Shop our family of advertisers and read us cover to cover. Check us out 24-7 on our website therecordlive.com. Take care and God bless.



Orange County Happenings



The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce has announced that the November Student of the Month for Bridge City High School is Blaze King. Blaze is ranked 98 of 211 with a GPA of 3.818. Pictured are: Alisa Huckaby, Jace Nunnally, Christy King, Blaze King, Chris King and Rani Dillow.



The Bridge City Chamber of Commerce has announced that the November Student of the Month for Orangefield High School is Prestyn Myers. Prestyn is ranked 20 of 114 with a GPA of 4.02. Pictured are: Shaun McAlpin, Heather Myers, Prestyn Myers, Britni Briggs and Lucy Fields.

Gum Drop Shop Holiday Market returns

The Explore Orange - Convention and Visitors Bureau is bringing back the Gumdrop Shop Holiday Market at Stark Park in downtown Orange, 201 7th Street, Dec. 7, 9 a.m.- 3 p.m. Come out and step into a world of holiday magic, where the spirit of the season comes to life in their festive market.

This enchanting event offers a delightful blend of local artisans, unique vendors, and joyful holiday entertainment. Discover unique one-of-a-kind items from local

vendors that you won't find anywhere else. Immerse yourself in a winter wonderland filled with lights, music, and the warmth of the holiday season.

By shopping at the event, you're supporting local businesses and contributing to the community. From holiday crafts, activities, and entertainment, there's something for everyone to enjoy. The Kiwanis Christmas Parade is scheduled to be held at 6:00 pm in downtown Orange following the Gumdrop Shop.



The Bridge City/Orangefield Rotary Club awarded Addison Bandy their Bridge City Student of the Month for November. Addison ranks 16 out of a class of 211. She plans to attend A&M for a degree in Animal Science to pursue a career as a Rehabilitation Veterinarian. Pictured are Amanda James-BC HS Principal, Alisa Huckaby-Counselor, Anna Bandy-Mother, Addison-Student, Scott Bandy-Father and Charlee Fitzgerald-Rotary President.



The Bridge City/Orangefield Rotary Club awarded Maci Waguespack as their Orangefield Student of the Month for November. She ranks 79 out of 114 students and has a GPA of 3.47. Her plans are to complete her basics at Lamar State College Orange then transfer to Lamar University in Beaumont to obtain a teaching degree. Pictured are JoAnn Waguespack-Grandmother, KaydanceWhitfield-Sister Inlaw, Rufus Sonnier-Grandfather, Melissa Waguespack-Mother, Brent Waguespack-Father, Maci-Student, Brittni Briggs-OF-HS Counselor, Charlee Fitzgerald-Rotary President and Shaun McAlpin-OFISD Superintendent.

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Orange County Football Highlights . . .

County teams all playoff bound



Bobcats quarterback Carson Gonzalez (0) flees the pocket while looking downfield for an open receiver during Thursday's 52-22 victory over Buna.

RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.



Bridge City Cardinal running back Abraham Munguia rounds the corner for yardage against the Huffman Hargrave Falcons.

RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland

TOMMY MANN JR.
For The Record

The regular season of high school football has come to an end and all five teams from Orange County have qualified for the playoffs. Now the quest begins for a state championship.

Here is what happened in the final week of action for our teams and a look ahead to the bi-district round games for each school.

Orangefield crushes Cougars

The Orangefield Bobcats cruised to a comfortable 52-22 win over the Buna Cougars on Thursday night in Buna and finished as the champions of Dis-

trict 10-3A Division 1.

Orangefield jumped out to an early lead and never looked back against the overmatched Cougars. Running Mason Manning had limited action but still finished the game with three rushing touchdowns. Jose Lecea rushed for 112 yards and two scores as Orangefield built a 42-0 lead early in the third quarter before pulling the majority of the starters.

Orangefield (8-2) is the No. 1 seed in District 10-3A and will play the Fairfield Eagles (6-4), the No. 4 seed from District 9-3A, at 7:30 p.m., Friday, at Wildcat Stadium in Splendor.

Orangefield averages 33.8 points per game on offense for the season, while the Bobcats defense has limited opponents to 16.5 points per game on aver-

age. The Eagles offense has generated 38.7 points per game offensively for the season, while its defense has allowed 30.1 points per game on average.

The Eagles finished in a three-way tie for second place in its district standings, but Fairfield claimed the fourth seed based on a points tie-breaking system.

Mustangs lose bid for district title

The battle between two state-ranked district rivals proved to be an entertaining affair, but it was the Longhorns who emerged victorious over the Mustangs.

The No. 9 state-ranked Hamshire-Fannett Longhorns beat

the No. 6 state-ranked West Orange-Stark Mustangs, 28-14, this past Friday at Longhorn Stadium in a rainy, soggy, sloppy game. The Longhorns claimed the district title with the win.

Hamshire-Fannett jumped out to an 14-0 lead early in the second quarter before the Mustangs answered when quarterback Marcus Turner Jr. roared to the end zone on a 40-yard run to cut the Longhorns lead to 14-7 at the half.

Each team had multiple turnovers in the second-half, mostly due to the sloppy field conditions and rain, but the Longhorns still jumped out to a 21-7 lead on a 17-yard touchdown pass. WO-S answered back on the next drive. Facing fourth and goal at the H-F 5-yard line, Turner threw a 5-yard scoring

pass to Amyrian Scott to make the score 21-14.

Even with momentum on their side, the Mustangs were unable to keep the Longhorns out of the end zone as Hamshire-Fannett scored once more to claim a 28-14 victory.

West Orange-Stark (8-2) will be the No. 2 seed from District 9-4A Division 2 and will face the No. 3 seed from District 10-4A D2, the Sweeny Bulldogs at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 14, at Randall Reed Stadium in New Caney.

WO-S has been averaging 37 points per game on offense this season, while its defense has been limiting opponents to just under 19 points per game on average. The Mustangs have beat-

ORANGE COUNTY Page 5B

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STK#: P492
- \$31,803** 2020 Chevrolet Silverado
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OUTDOORS

Trout and reds on the spectrum

OUTDOORS
Capt. Chuck Uzzle
For The Record



Chuck Uzzle

First of all before we get started on the fish I want to say on behalf of all the concerned outdoor folks "welcome back" to President Donald J. Trump and congratulations on the landslide victory.

I found it incredibly interesting, as did many others, that the only states Kamala Harris won were ones that required no voter ID. As we have mentioned in this column many times as a hunter or fishermen you must present ID in order to purchase a license, seems like common sense that you would have to show ID to exercise one of your most important rights which is to be able to vote. I still can't understand why some people believe



Redfish and trout found on each end of the spectrum as exhibited Capt. Chuck Uzzle.

that asking for ID is some sort of sin, just hard to imagine the logic. Either way I am personally glad the election is over and all of that campaign madness is now behind us.

Looking forward to more pleasant topics Sabine Lake is in terrific shape right now, the water clarity is fantastic and both shrimp and shad can be found in bunches all over the lake as well as the rivers and marshes. The gulls have been working sporadically over schools of speckled trout that are just a little short and redfish that are way too big. Many of these schools of trout and reds are chasing shad right now so they don't stay in one spot really long like they do when they are chasing shrimp. Be prepared to stay on your trolling motor if you plan to chase them and find a lure that you can cast for distance in order to reach those fish quicker. Standard soft plastics fished under a cork have been the best bet along with 4 or 5 inch swimbaits. Colors vary from day to day but it's hard to beat anything light that resembles a shrimp such as glo or bone diamond.

The live bait bite is picking up momentum in the river and ICW for those not interested in chasing birds. I stopped along the river recently and found some absolutely perfect sized shad that were being harassed by some pelicans. One throw with a cast net in the right spot provided more than enough bait for the day. A standard Carolina rig with a ½ or 3/8 ounce sinker, 2 feet of leader, and a live bait or Kahle style hook will put you in business if you choose the live bait program. Still others will drift those same shad under a popping cork and catch their fair share of good fish as well.

CAPTAIN CHUCK Page 3B

'The Lakes' Fishing

• Toledo Bend Fishing Report

FAIR. Water normal stain; 80 degrees; 4.51 feet below pool. Cooler weather is finally here and this first touch of fall will help to improve the bite. Shallow bass are still best with swim jigs, swimbaits, topwater, and frogs. The bite in the creek should start this week on lipless, square bill crankbaits and small spinnerbaits in 4-8 feet of water. We did get some rain, but not enough to muddy up the creeks. There are numbers of deep fish just not quality, but this should improve as the temperature drops on spoons, tail spins and dropshots. Report by Stephen Johnston, Johnston Fishing.

• Sam Rayburn Fishing Reports

GOOD. Water slightly stained; 72 degrees; 2.55 feet below pool. There is an abundance of shad in shallow water. Shallow bass feeding on the shad can be caught with spinnerbaits and topwater frogs. Crappie are transitioning from brush main lake brush to creek channels. Blue and channel catfish are fair in 24-27 feet of water and in the river bends on cut bait and minnows. Report by Captain Lynn Atkinson, Reel Um N Guide Service.

Gulf Coast Fishing Reports

• Sabine Lake

GOOD. 80 degrees. Lots of high water so bait is keeping to the marshes. Marsh and ICW producing nice redfish and speckled trout off shell flats and rock piles with live shrimp under a popping cork. High southwest winds shifted efforts to the Neches River for limits of redfish and nice trout mixed in.

Target points and cuts with live shrimp under a popping cork, or a 5 inch morning glory chartreuse in 15-25 feet stacked on points with big drops. Main river buoys are producing drum up to 18 inches and sheepshead with live shrimp under a popping cork.

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

• Bolivar

GOOD. 77 degrees. We shall see what the weather does this week, but the bite is best pre-front and a day after it passes. Water temperature staying in the upper 70s, but should cool after the cold front. Water levels swapping back-and-forth this week with the front and the tides. Anglers are still catching plenty of redfish everywhere.

There are plenty of big croakers along with sand trout, black drum, speckled trout, and crabs caught along the jetty with a few small stingrays and sharks. Reminder, flounder are catch and release only through December 14. The surf is producing lots of redfish and black drum, a few gafftop, lots of small stingrays, and bigger sharks along the whole peninsula with high activity towards Gilchrist/High Island mainly.

Report by Captain Shane Rilal, North Jetty Bait Camp

• Trinity Bay

SLOW. 78 degrees. Wind, wind, and more wind. Late week prospects depend on where the tropical low goes. Protected areas up the channel producing some speckled trout, redfish, and black drum. Open water bird activity on hold till wind levels off. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

Trout are really showing up with the best catches on top of the shell. Watch for signs of shrimp, and birds can be helpful but if you know where the reef is you will find fish. Redfish are still in the back waters, but after a cold front the fish along with the shrimp should dump out of the back water. Drum are plentiful on rocks along with sheepshead eating live shrimp. Be safe, wear your kill switch and watch the weather prior to planning your next trip. Report by Captain Zackary Scott, Zack Attack Fishing.

• East Galveston Bay

GOOD. 78 degrees. We have experienced strong south to southeast winds this past week limiting us to fishing the South Shoreline and back in the marsh and back lakes most of the time. Trout, redfish and a few flounder can be caught on flats with scattered shell around pinch points with good current movement and nervous bait. Redfish have been around grass lines in areas with bait in the vicinity. Imitation Shrimp lures under pop-

ping corks with 12 inch leaders have still been producing well, as well as 1/8 ounce jig heads with Wac Attack and Deadly Dudley tails in lighter colors, and Gulp Shrimp when targeting flounder, with weightless swimbait hooks and they performed as intended as well. Remember Flounder season is closed through December 14. Report by Captain Jeff Brandon, Get the Net Guide Service, LLC.

• Galveston Bay

SLOW. 78 degrees. No reports from the open waters of Galveston Bay. Wind protected areas producing a few redfish, black drum, sheepshead, and some speckled trout. Best on live shrimp. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• West Galveston Bay

GOOD. 79 degrees. Waders on the far west end of the bay picking up some decent speckled trout, along with a few redfish. Open bay fishing is disrupted by the wind. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

• Freeport

GOOD. 78 degrees. Birds have been working over trout and redfish feeding on shrimp in the mornings and evenings. Live shrimp under a four horseman pop n corks been working well or gulp with 1/16 ounce jig head. The redfish are good in the surf on live or cut mullet.

The old river has been good for catches of trout,

redfish, sheepshead with mangroves snapper. The river has been good for trout, redfish, drum, sand trout and big croaker using either live shrimps or dead. Report by Captain Jake Brown, Flattie Daddy Fishing Adventures

• Texas City

GOOD. 77 degrees. Bull Redfish and oversized black drum being can be caught off the Texas City Dike and Galveston Jetties. Little else noted due to the high winds. Forecast remains iffy with a low pressure system entering the gulf. Report by Captain David Dillman, Galveston Bay Charter Fishing.

Anglers are still catching plenty of speckled trout, redfish, and black drum with the occasional sand trout, gafftop and big croaker. Successful wade fishing around Mosquito Island and inside the Moses Lake Tidal Gate.

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Bobcats running back Jose Lecea (17) led all rushers during Thursday's game with 112 yards rushing. He also had two touchdowns on the night against Buna. RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.



Mustangs running back Khelvy Jefferson (4) looks for room to run as he is pursued by Hamshire-Fannett defenders during Friday's rainy game against the Longhorns. RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.



Bridge City Cardinal quarterback Hutch Bearden rolls out against the Huffman Hargrave Falcons. Playoff bound Big Red fell to the Falcons 26-18. RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland



Under heavy cover Bridge City Cardinal Abraham Munguia (3) reaches to bring in a deflected pass. RECORD PHOTO: Lisa K. Anderson

Captain Chuck From Page 2B

The only downside lately with the using the cork and live shad is working your way through the gafftop. Those pesky, slimy, hard pulling rascals will get in the way of a good bite at exactly the most inopportune time and will more than make a mess if you put them in your boat so take caution.

I still believe we need another really good cold front to get the bite in the lake going like it should be this time of year. Last week we had some ridiculously high tides associated with the storm in the gulf and those levels are still above normal as we head for the full moon later this week. That big push

of water has held the shrimp back in the marsh-

es and bayous which is where they will stay until a big north wind rolls in and dumps everything. Many local folks have retreated to those areas and are do-

ing well on trout and red-fish along with some bonus flounder. With just a small bit of cooperation from the weather man the fishing should really take

off, until that time the bite we have going on now should be enough to satisfy most folks for the time being.

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Bridge City's Jagger Carlin topples the Huffman Hargrave quarterback during fierce game action at Larry Ward Stadium. RECORD PHOTO: Lisa K. Anderson



Bridge City quarterback Hutch Bearden hands off to fullback Ashton Sumrall. Bridge City (8-2) will travel to Longview to take on the No. 7 state-ranked Pine Tree Pirates. RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland



West Orange-Stark quarterback Marcus Turner Jr. (3) prepares to throw downfield during the first-half of Friday's district title match against the Hamshire-Fannett Longhorns. RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.



Orangefield defender Kaleb Menard (9) pursues the Buna running back during the first-half of the game this past Thursday. RECORD PHOTO: Tommy Mann Jr.

Orange County football From Page 1B

en No. 3 Newton (Class 3A D2) and No. 10 Waco La Vega (Class 4A D2) this season.

Sweeny (5-5) has averaged nearly 35 points per game on offense through 10 games, while its defense has been allowing 30 points per game for the season.

Cards lose tough game to Falcons

The Bridge City Cardinals lost a tough battle to the Huffman-Hargrave Falcons this past Friday night, 26-18, at Larry Ward Stadium

in Bridge City and will be the No. 3 seed for District 10-4A D1 in the bi-district round of the playoffs.

Inclement weather was a problem for both teams, but the Cardinals fumbled the ball five times on the night and could not overcome the miscues to get the win, despite stellar performances

by Hutch Bearden and Ashton Sumrall.

Bridge City (8-2) will travel to Longview to take on the No. 7 state-ranked Pine Tree Pirates (9-1), the No. 2 seed from District 9-4A D1, at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 15 at Pirate Stadium.

The Cardinals offense has been averaging nearly 33 per game on the season, while its defense has been one of the stingiest units on


Southeast Texas by limiting the opposition to just 13 points per game for the year. Its defense and special teams units have been very aggressive and opportunistic this season and have each scored multiple touchdowns on fumble returns and kickoff returns.

Pine Tree has averaged just over 25 points per game on offense this season, while its defense has held opponents to slightly more

than 15 points per game.


The Pirates have beaten No. 10 Gilmer (Class 4A D2) this year, as well as perennial playoff power Van. Pine Tree's only loss on the year was to No. 6 state-ranked Kilgore, 17-6, in district play, which was Kilgore's lowest offensive output on the year.

MORE ORANGE COUNTY FOOTBALL Page 5B




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info@setexasrain.com

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Bridge City running back Ashton Sumrall dives for yardage after picking up a first down against the Falcons. RECORD PHOTO: Lisa K Anderson



Bridge City Cardinal ball carrier Abraham Munguia scampers out of reach of Falcon defensive players during game action. RECORD PHOTO: Lisa K Anderson

Orange County football From Page 4B

LC-M finishes with unbeaten district record

The Little Cypress-Mauriceville Battlin' Bears finished district with a 7-0 record after the Bears defeated the Lumberton Raiders, 35-25, this past Friday at Battlin' Bear Stadium. The Bears are the champions of District 10-4A D1 and the No. 1 seed for the district in the playoffs.

The Bears offense generated 501 yards of total offense for the game and jumped out to a 14-6 half-time lead thanks to a 78-yard touchdown pass by Braylen Lewis to Khayden Reed and a 3-yard run by J'Lynn Morris.

LC-M exploded for 21 points in the third quarter to put the game away as Lewis had touchdown runs of 64-yards and 72-yards, while connecting with Reed for a 34-yard touchdown pass.

LC-M (8-2) will play the Lindale Eagles (5-5), the No. 4 seed from District 9-4A D1, at 7:30 p.m., Fri-

day, Nov. 15 at Battlin' Bear Stadium in Orange.

The Bears, which have won eight consecutive games, have been averaging just over 30 points per game on offense this year, while its defense has held opponents to slightly more than 19 points per game.

Meanwhile, the Lindale Eagles (5-5) are much better than their record indicates.

The offense has been averaging 29 points per game on the season, while the defense has allowed 20 points per game. All five of its losses are to playoff teams and two of those teams are state-ranked in district rivals No. 6 Kilgore and No. 7 Pine Tree. Another quality loss was a 37-36 heartbreaker to No. 10 Gilmer (Class 4A D2).

Vidor qualifies for playoffs with fourth straight win

The Vidor Pirates scored early and scored often and

sailed smoothly by the Livingston Lions, 61-14, for their fourth consecutive win. The victory sends the Pirates to the post-season as well.

Vidor jumped out to a 21-0 lead in the first quarter as its Slot-T running attack carved up the Lions defense. The majority of starting personnel were out of the game by the end of the third quarter with Vidor firmly ahead, 55-14.

With the win, the Pirates (5-5) are the No. 4 seed from District 10-4A D1 and will take on the No. 6 state-ranked Kilgore Bulldogs (8-2), the No. 1 seed from District 9-4A D1, at 7:30 p.m., Friday, Nov. 15, at RE St. John Memorial Stadium in Kilgore.

Vidor started out the season in turmoil at 1-5, but finished strongly to even its record. For the season, the Pirates have averaged 34 points per game on offense while allowing opponents 30 points per game on average.

However, during Vidor's current four game winning streak, which came after several personnel changes



Ashton Sumrall takes the handoff from Bridge City Cardinal quarterback Hutch Bearden during a tough game against Huffman Hargrave. RECORD PHOTO: Darren Hoyland

were made, the Pirates have averaged just over 51 points per game and limited opponents to 20 points per game.

Kilgore averages 33 points per game on offense this season, but its defense has been very impressive as

it has limited opponents to just over 14 points per game.

The Bulldogs have a strong resume with wins over Class 4A D2 powerhouses, No. 1 state-ranked Carthage and No. 5 Pleas-

ant Grove, while suffering a two point loss to No. 7 state-ranked Gilmer. Kilgore has also beaten district rival Pine Tree, currently the No. 7 state-ranked team in Class 4A D1.

It's always been easier for me to help others than to help myself



As a Veteran, when someone raises their hand for help, you're often one of the first ones to respond. But it's also okay to get help for yourself. Maybe you want or need assistance with employment, stress, finances, mental health or finding the right resources. No matter what it is, you earned it. And there's no better time than right now to ask for it. **Don't wait. Reach out.**



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Find resources at [VA.GOV/REACH](https://www.va.gov/reach)

Pour Out Your Pain

A Prayer of Hope for Afflicted Hearts

D. Glenn
desiringGod.org

*Al Humdulillah.
Praise be to God.*

Living in the Middle East, we hear this phrase several times every day. It is the answer to many questions. “How are you?” She could be happy or sad and say, “Al Humdulillah.” “How is your work?” He could have a well-paying job or none at all and say, “Al Humdulillah.” “How are you feeling?” She could be healthy, sick, or even dying and say, “Al Humdulillah.” The phrase serves as a good reminder that our lives and well-being are in the hand of God. But sometimes I hate hearing it.

Of course, our God is worthy of all praise, but the religious culture of Islam strangles out expressions of discouragement and despondency. Often when I sit with a Muslim family and one of them tells me of his loss and grief, lamenting incredible sorrows, another will cut him off by insisting, “Say, ‘Al Humdulillah.’” The meaning is clear: “Don’t grieve. Praise God.” This is what I hate — the refusal to allow lament because we are supposed to praise God in all things.

We Christians can do this too. Once we shared with a church about a particularly hard season of ministry in the Middle East. Though not hopeless,

we certainly weren’t rosy. One of the parishioners said to us afterward, “Rejoice in the Lord always.” It was a gentle rebuke meant to indicate that we shouldn’t share our hardships so honestly, especially not as “sent ones.” To this I say, “Al Hamdulillah, the Lord doesn’t share this aversion to lament.” In fact, we see in the Psalms that he invites us to pour out our complaints to him.

Prayer of One Afflicted

Too often when we read the Psalms, we ignore the little bit of text at the beginning. It may be something short like, “A Psalm” (Psalm 98) or “Of David” (Psalm 25). Other times, this little bit of text is part of what makes the psalm so deeply helpful.

The heading of Psalm 102 reads, “A prayer of one afflicted, when he is faint and pours out his complaint before the Lord.” For me, these are some of the most encouraging words in the Bible.

In our work in the Arab world, we haven’t seen the fruit we’d like. Much of our ministry has felt like plodding. Living in the Middle East can be challenging, with wars, refugees, unrest, and extremism. I can get discouraged, even depressed. My friend shouldn’t have 37 dead family members from a war in his home region. Another



shouldn’t have watched all seven of his children die in their early years of life. And then there are those who can’t afford to feed their families, or must carry on in abusive marriages, or pull their kids out of school in sixth grade so they can work to support the family.

Faced with such suffering, I sometimes feel hopeless and downcast. But Psalm 102 reveals a simple truth: there is a prayer for me. I suspect you also have had similar moments of pain and discouragement. This prayer is for you too.

The psalmist lived in a broken world and needed to “pour out his complaint,” as the heading says. One does not pour something out if there is only a little. These were not drops of sorrow; there was so much in his heart he had to pour it out. Wonderfully, he felt free to pour out his complaint before God. Even more remarkably, the Spirit of God inspired him to pour out his complaint. Then the Spirit took this complaint and put it in the Scriptures

so that we would have not only permission to do likewise, but also an example to follow.

His Complaint

We don’t know the exact nature of the psalmist’s complaint, but we do see its effects. Something compels him to cry out to God in his distress. The pit he is in makes him feel like God does not hear his prayer. The darkness conceals God’s face, leading him to believe God might not answer (verses 1–2).

His heart is withering, for he feels like his life is in a furnace. His depression is so deep he forgets to eat. He cannot sleep. He weeps so much his tears mix with his drink (verses 3–9). All of this because he feels the “indignation and anger” of God upon him (verse 10).

The psalmist is brutally honest. He neither hides nor minimizes his sorrows. True relationship demands honesty.

His Hope

Like the psalmist, I can be a mess — unable to eat or sleep, filled with discouragement and hopelessness. But the psalmist refuses to wallow. He makes a shift. Turning to the Lord, he knows that he has a source of comfort and hope. “But you, O Lord, are enthroned forever. . . . You will arise and have pity on Zion” (verses 12–13).

Too often, we fail to come to the “but.” We focus on our pain and make our complaint ultimate. We enthrone our woes over him who reigns forever. But the psalmist makes a shift. He changes the direction of his heart, turning his gaze from all that is wrong to the one in whom all is right. He remembers and proclaims the greatness of God’s power and majesty: “Nations will fear the name of the Lord” (verse 15). He also remembers God’s mercy and compassion: “He regards the prayer of the destitute and does not despise their prayer” (verse 17).

The psalmist’s confidence in God is so great he says, “Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord” (verse 18). He wants a record of his pain and need, followed by a record of God’s gracious help in time of need. He wants a record of the most basic facts in the universe: We need help, and God is a helper. We get help, and God gets glory. We get delivered, and God gets praised. Make the record so that “they may declare in Zion the name of the Lord, and in Jerusalem his praise, when peoples gather together, and kingdoms, to worship the Lord”

(verse 21–22).

His hope is sure because he knows God is faithful in his mercy. God’s help for the psalmist will abound to God’s praise among the peoples.

His Praise

The psalmist’s pain remains, but his hope is strengthened. In the beginning, he pleads with God not to hide his face from him (verse 2). At the end, he professes his conviction that though the world should perish, God remains (verse 26). His hope even extends to his children and beyond: “The children of your servants shall dwell secure; their offspring shall be established before you” (verse 28).

In our brokenness, we pray the prayer of one afflicted. We are faint and pour out our complaint before God. And like the psalmist, we pivot: “But God.” We turn from our complaint to him who is the truth — even to the Savior who prayed this prayer himself. When Jesus poured out his complaint, his agony was so great that “his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground (Luke 22:44). Then he was broken for us so that by his wounds we might be healed. His brokenness undoes ours.

The nations will fear the name of the Lord (Psalm 102:15). The peoples and kingdoms will gather to worship him (verse 22). We who are afflicted and broken will be made whole. And in the midst of our brokenness, we hope in God who is enthroned above. Al Hamdulillah.

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Dr. Larry Haynes, Pastor

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