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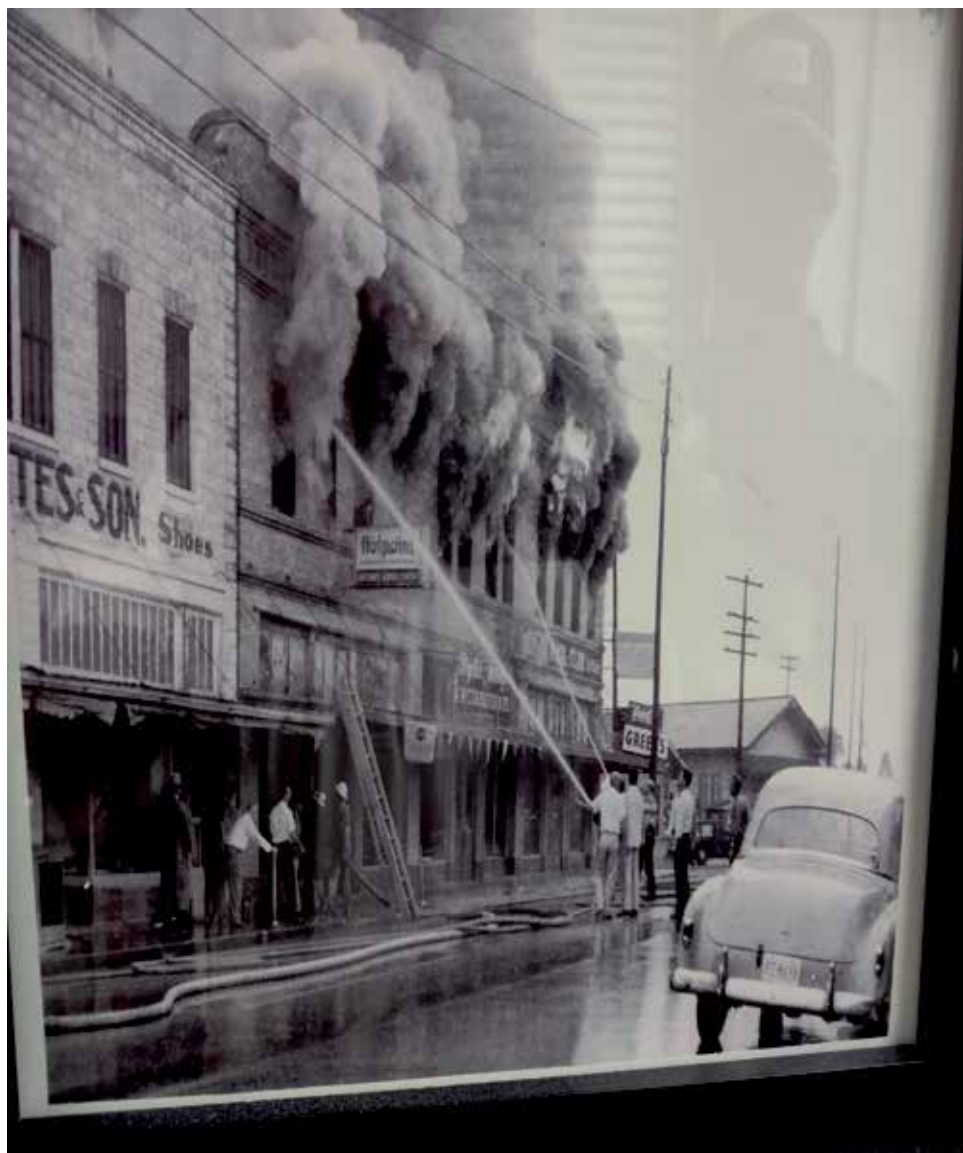
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2025 Is Your Year To Volunteer! Bring Back The Spirit Of America

This edition of the EPP features a number of articles about one of our local volunteer fire departments. They are just the tip of the volunteer iceberg. While hard economic times have sadly reduced volunteerism in America, this country is still the most generous on the planet with time and money. In the local area there are other volunteer fire departments in Dickinson, Bacliff, and Kemah for example. Habitat for Humanity has a Bay Area chapter, the local animal shelters need volunteers pretty much always. The local food banks are often hungry for help. Galveston County CERT regularly trains volunteers for free to be ready to when disaster strikes. Bacliff has a community garden that supplies a local charity with fresh produce and vegetables. Then there are the VFWs, American Legion, Fraternal Order of the Eagles, local neighborhood groups like the Bayshore Town Square, San Leon War on Drugs and so many more ways to help the local communities with your time and or money.

The 1900 storm that hit Galveston is one of the best examples of the power of the people to make a difference. Government was smaller back then and the folks simply did not expect outside help of any significance. As a result, the people of Galveston literally took to the streets to save their community. While much has changed since then, the fact remains that without volunteers life is worse in a community. EPP knows that not everyone has the time, the money or the ability to make a commitment to a particular organization, but volunteerism can be as simple as helping an elderly neighbor maintain their yard or picking up trash from a nearby ditch. Fix UR Pets appears regularly in this publication providing low or no cost services for area pets. They exist because volunteers exist.

Local churches provide meals, comfort and often work crews to help the communities where they are located and some send teams to help outside the area when disaster strikes. You don't have to be religious to appreciate and support their efforts. Local politics is another way to be a volunteer. From local school boards to city council members, to MUD directors, these are typically no or nearly no pay positions that need good people to fill their ranks. Below are a couple of historical photos showing firefighters and firefighting from the past. One shows an early Bacliff station and team and the other shows businessmen in Alvin who stopped their workday to fight a downtown fire. From the examples of the past to making a greater county, state and country, volunteers have always been essential. EPP says in 2025 volunteer if you can and support those who do if you cannot.



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Texas Crab Festival Charities 2024 Christmas Drive Press Release

The Texas Crab Festival Christmas Drive is thrilled to announce its successful partnership with Angel Tree, extending holiday joy to families from High Island to Port Bolivar. Thanks to a generous \$5,000 donation from Entergy and the heartfelt contributions from residents of Bolivar Peninsula, we were able to fulfill the holiday wishes of local children. Together, we purchased 50 bikes, scooters, and skates, bringing smiles and excitement to many young faces.

Additionally, we extend our gratitude to Academy for their support in assembling all the bikes and providing a special discount. In a further act of community kindness, we provided support for \$35 gift cards to children, ensuring they had even more to celebrate this season. The Texas Crab Festival Christmas Drive remains committed to fostering joy and togetherness within our community.



Baby It's Cold Outside!

As winter is back, EPP hopes all are ready for power outages, broken pipes, dead car batteries, falling branches and trees, slick roads and the whole host of things that represent the worst of winter. Just as all who live on the Gulf Coast are or should be prepared for hurricane season that returns every year, so too should year round preparations for the cold be on the priority list. Do you have a small stockpile of food, fuel for your generator and perhaps your chainsaw (when did you run them last?), pet food and a warm place for them to be, flashlights and more? About the only thing different about winter's wrath versus hurricanes in the summer is the need to have a way to keep warm. Did we mention medications, fuel in the car and that alternate method to stay warm?

The cold weather is a welcome change from August heat, but not if you are thirsty, hungry and shivering in a dark house. EPP says be prepared and enjoy the short-lived event that Galveston County calls winter.



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Free Household Electronic Waste Event
Sunday, February 22nd, 2025
10am to 4pm/Until Capacity Met
Bayshore/Spillway Park

Electronics

Accepted Items	Not Accepted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Computers/Laptops Computer Accessories Power Cords/Cables Cellular Phones VCR/DVD Players Printers Servers TVs (up to 55") Monitors Scrap Metal/Wire Cable Boxes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vacuum Cleaners Radios Thermostats (any type) Appliances Microwaves Rice Cookers Space Heaters Air Conditioners Clocks Freezers Refrigerators

Galveston County Electronic Waste Day

Date:
February 22nd, 2025

Time:
10:00am to 4:00pm

Location:
5437 FM 646
Bacliff, TX 77518

For more information, contact Galveston County Nuisance Abatement at 409-766-4509



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Free Household Hazardous Waste Event
 Saturday, March 1st, 2025
 10am to 4pm/Until Capacity Met
 Galveston County Fairgrounds

Galveston County **FOOD BANK**
 On-site Canned Food Donation Drive

Hazardous Waste
 No Commercial/Construction Waste
 Containers Must be 5 Gallons or Less

Accepted Items	Not Accepted
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Oil Based Paints - Solvents - Cleaning Products - Light Bulbs - Mercury - Oil and Oil Filters - Batteries and Auto Batteries - Antifreeze - Pesticides and Herbicides - Pool Chemicals - Up to 8 Passenger Vehicle Tire - Gasoline and Diesel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explosives - Ammunition - Radioactive Materials - Dioxins - Agricultural Chemicals - Medical Waste - Pharmaceutical Items - Smoke Alarms - Propane Tanks - Household Trash - Furniture - Kitchen Waste

Galveston County Hazardous Waste Day

Date: March 1st, 2025

Time: 10:00am to 4:00pm

Location: 10 Jack Brooks Rd. Hitchcock, Texas

For more information, contact Galveston County Nuisance Abatement at 409-766-4509



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CROSSWORD

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD
AND SUDOKU ON
PAGE 7

STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: SNOW DAY

ACROSS

1. Larger-than-life
5. Capone's family
8. Wild swine
12. "You're not allowed," to a baby
13. Deal with it
14. Cunningly
15. Shower with affection
16. Allege
17. City in Belgium
18. *Snow Day exercise?
20. Poet Pound
21. Ovine sign of the zodiac
22. Tasseled hat
23. All together (2 words)
26. Military College of South Carolina, with The
30. For every
31. a.k.a. association football
34. *All-day Snow Day garb?
35. Delete
37. Crude fuel
38. Read-only disc
39. Good's counterpart
40. Popular flowering shrub
42. Female ancestor
43. Two heads are better than one, e.g.
45. Bering Strait state
47. Rudolph's Clarice, e.g.
48. Like thick smoke
50. Fountain option
52. *No two are alike, sing.
56. Surround (2 words)
57. Tangerine plus grapefruit
58. *Like a river, with over
59. #51 Down, pl.
60. Heidi's "Magic Wooden Shoe"
61. Olufsen's partner
62. Sound of a bell
63. Not him
64. Surfer's stop

DOWN

1. Odds' partners
2. Tubby little cubby
3. "He's Just Not That ____ You"
4. Of the same period
5. *Popular Snow Day pastime
6. Some tournaments
7. Zugspitze, e.g.
8. *Severe weather
9. Deed hearing
10. Algae, sing.
11. Marble bread
13. ____ Jack, English pirate
14. *As opposed to rain
19. Irregular
22. Type of conifer
23. Musketeers' swords
24. High-strung
25. Cerebellum location
26. Unit of life
27. Students' dwellings
28. *Snow Day reading choice
29. Helping theorem
32. *Like soft pj's
33. Intelligence org.
36. *Slope fun
38. Shorter than California
40. Number of years
41. No, it doesn't crawl in one's ear
44. Horse of certain color, pl.
46. Spontaneous additions
48. Obtuse one
49. Tom Cruise's "The ____ of Money"
50. Highway hauler
51. Bad sign
52. Of a particular kind
53. Smoothie berry
54. Superman's last name
55. Part of a seat
56. *Like chocolate on a Snow Day

TSRA
Anyone?

Never heard of it? TSRA stands for the Texas State Rifle Association. They are similar to the NRA but focus on the issues that concern Texas hunters, shooting sports enthusiasts and second amendment issues in the state. If you too support those issues, check them out online at tsra.com and consider joining. Freedom has a cost and membership in both organizations is a small price to pay to defend the constitution that helps separate us from those countries that you really wouldn't want to live in.



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Change Is Coming

On January 20th, Donald Trump will again become President. EPP wishes him every possible goodwill and support in his goal to Make America Great Again. When you hear MAGA used as a derogatory term, consider what it actually means and ask yourself and them whether anyone should be against the sentiment that it represents. The basis for most inflation starts with energy costs. Whether it is the ability to have a cool home in a sweltering Galveston County summer, take an affordable Sunday drive or to have affordable groceries and consumer goods, energy is a prime ingredient in the cost. Energy provides employment for so many in this country and specifically Texas and the Houston metropolitan area, that folks that reside in Galveston County should be supportive of both cheap energy and expanded energy sources and infrastructure. EPP hopes goodwill will be the standard going forward both towards and within the incoming administration. Successfully Making America Great Again will benefit us all.



PORK CHOPS
'N POTATOES BAKE

- 6 pork chops
- vegetable oil
- seasoned salt
- 1 can cream of celery soup (10 oz.)
- 1/2 c. milk
- 1/2 c. sour cream
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 pkg. frozen hash browns or O'Brien potatoes (24 oz). thawed
- 1 c. Cheddar cheese, grated
- 1 can French fried onions, (2.8 oz)

Brown chops in vegetable oil with seasoned salt. Set aside. Mix soup, milk, sour cream, add potatoes and 1/2 of cheese and 1/2 of onions. Put in casserole, place chops on top.

Bake at 350 degrees for 40 minutes. Last 5 minutes add remaining cheese and onions.



San Leon VFD Runs 943 Calls

In 2024, the volunteers of the San Leon fire department responded 943 times to calls for service. Most of those calls were what are referred to as first responder calls. That typically represents a call for an injured or sick person needing assistance. Some of the calls are for vehicle accidents, RV and structure fires , downed cables and utility poles or trees, gas leaks, mutual aid and a smattering of call not easily categorized. The residential customers of the San Leon MUD pay \$10 per month on their water bill for all the services provided by the department. That amount has not changed in years and inflation has taken its toll on the department budget. Baccliff VFD recently asked for and received a bit more than a 20% increase in their residential fees and San Leon VFD needs additional funding as well. It should be noted that neither department has any obligation to provide more than basic fire protection services. The volunteers at both departments chose and choose to provide the additional level of service that is represented by first responders. EPP asks that every person served by a volunteer fire department strongly support the volunteers that sacrifice to serve their communities. That said, thanks are earned and appreciated, but the departments need continuing financial support from their communities. EPP request that those who can volunteer do so, those that cannot volunteer pay their MUD bills, donate when possible and support reasonable requests for additional monthly fees.



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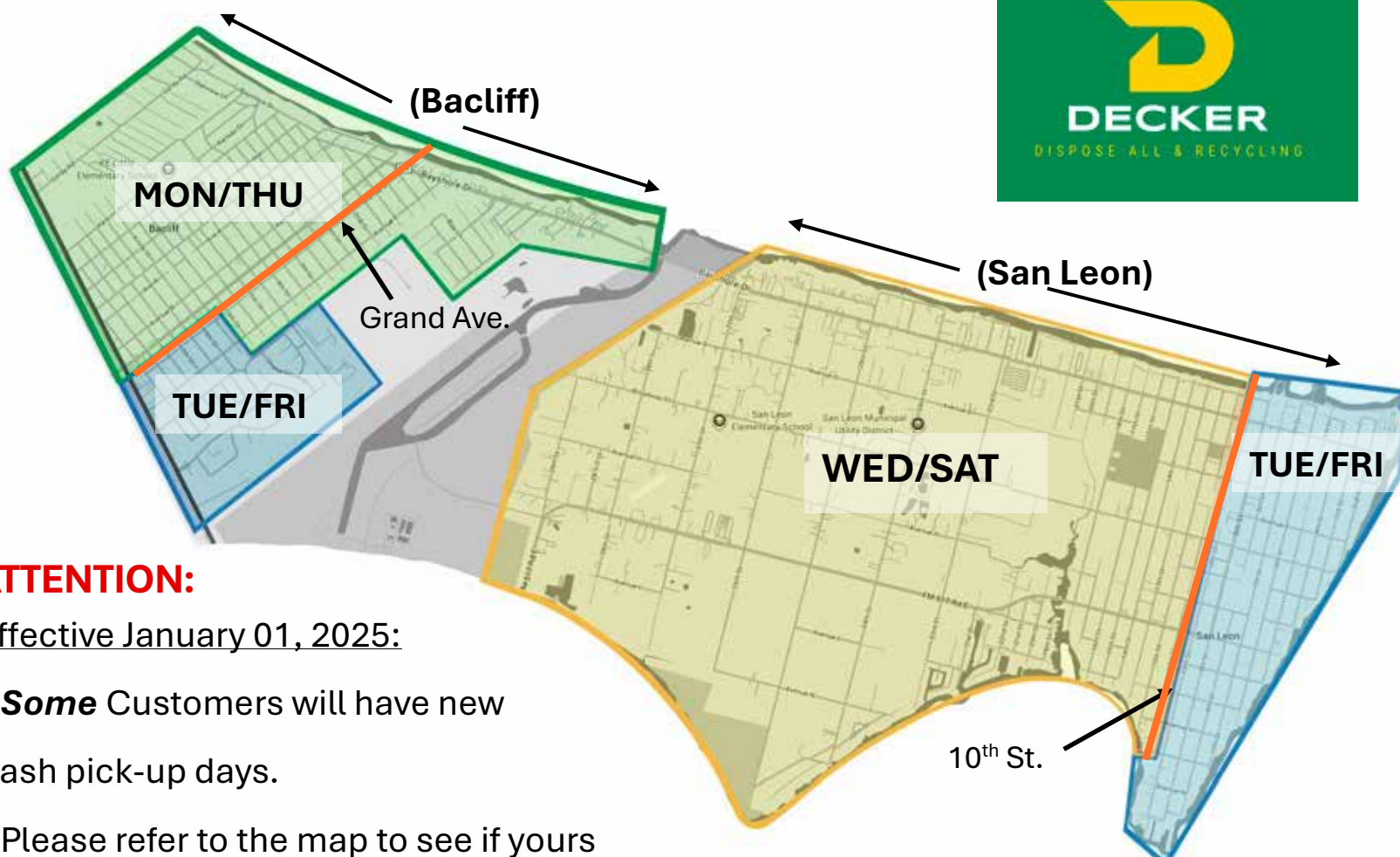
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- * Please refer to the map to see if yours has changed.

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This week's Galveston County Animal Resource Center Pet of the Week is Zoey.

Meet Zoey (A039254), a gorgeous 1year old Husky with a playful personality that's impossible to resist. She's full of energy and always ready for her next adventure, whether it's a long walk or some backyard zoomies. Zoey adores being the center of attention and will shower you with love every chance she gets. She's on the hunt for her forever home, where she can share her lively spirit and endless affection. Come on in and meet her!

Videos of the Pets of the Week can be viewed on www.facebook.com/garcpets and www.youtube.com.

Pets of the week adoptions include rabies vaccination, spay or neuter and microchip. For more information call 409-948-2485 or visit www.gchd.org. These and other pets are available at the Galveston County Animal Resource Center, 3412 25th Ave N. Texas City, TX. 77590.



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Report Streetlight Outages

Follow this link to report a streetlight outage with Centerpoint Energy:

<https://slo.centerpointenergy.com/customerslo.aspx>

You will need the pole number and address or cross streets as well as some personal information. If you choose, they will send you email updates on the repair status. It is easy and helps keep our neighborhoods safer.



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CONDITIONS APPLY



San Leon Volunteer Fire Department: 70 Years of Service and Growth

This year marks a milestone for the San Leon Volunteer Fire Department (SLVFD) as we celebrate 70 years of unwavering dedication to protecting and serving our community. From humble beginnings in 1955 to the modern, highly-trained department we are today, our story is one of resilience, progress, and an enduring commitment to safety.

A Look Back at 1955

In 1955, the San Leon Volunteer Fire Department was established to meet the needs of a small, tight-knit community of just a few hundred residents. Firefighting then was vastly different from today. Crews responded to fires with basic trucks, minimal equipment, and often little formal training. Communication relied on word of mouth or a simple fire bell. Gear was rudimentary, offering limited protection compared to what we have now.

The trucks were utilitarian, often converted from surplus military or commercial vehicles, and the firehouse was a modest structure—a stark contrast to our modern fleet and state-of-the-art facility. Despite these challenges, the department laid a solid foundation of service that would grow and evolve with the community.

Growth of San Leon and SLVFD

Over the past seven decades, San Leon has transformed from a small town into a thriving community of over 6,000 residents. With this growth came the need for more sophisticated fire protection and emergency services.

Today, SLVFD operates from a modern facility with advanced apparatus, tools, and technology. Our trucks are equipped with cutting-edge pumps, hoses, and rescue tools, and our firefighters wear gear designed to withstand extreme heat and hazards. Training has also seen remarkable advancements, with our members regularly participating in courses to stay at the forefront of fire science, rescue techniques, and medical response.

Honoring the Past, Looking to the Future

As we celebrate 70 years, we honor the volunteers who came before us—those who answered the call with courage and determination, often with fewer resources and greater risks. Their dedication laid the groundwork for what we have achieved today.

While much has changed, one thing remains constant: our commitment to protecting San Leon. We continue to adapt, innovate, and strive for excellence, ensuring we're prepared for the challenges of tomorrow.

Join Us in Celebrating on May 12

We invite the community to join us for our 70th Anniversary Open House on May 12, a day of reflection, appreciation, and celebration. It's an opportunity to see how far we've come, learn more about the department, and thank the volunteers who continue to serve.

Here's to 70 years of service—and to many more to come. Together, we'll keep San Leon safe, strong, and thriving.