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VOLUME 31, NUMBER 5 EAGLEPOINTPRESS@YAHOO.COM EAGLEPOINTPRESS.ONLINE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2025



What Comes Next At San Leon VFD?

Publisher's Disclosure: The publisher of the Eagle Point Press has been associated with the San Leon VFD for a number of years and has seen five chiefs during that time period. This article is intended to briefly but accurately reflect recent events affecting the department and is intended to be an unbiased representation of the situations described.

On February 18 at the San Leon MUD regular meeting the contract between the MUD and the fire department was terminated effective immediately for breach of contract by the department. The stated reason for the termination was the failure to provide the long overdue and promised annual financial audit for the 2023 period. The decision was made when the board returned from a roughly hour long executive session in which the issue was likely debated among the MUD board members. The long in place contract called for the department to provide fire protection services to the community and to submit an annual audit ensuring that the department was being fiscally responsible.

The MUD's duties were to collect the mandatory fire department fees from its customers, forward those funds to the department and receive the annual audit. Under non-breach circumstances, the contract was subject to termination by either party with thirty days notice.

Upon hearing the decision of the MUD board made with a vote of the board of directors after the public had been invited back into the meeting room, the San Leon Fire Chief stated multiple times that the department would cease to run fire or EMS (first responder) calls. Subsequent to those statements the chief left the building. When the MUD board was asked if a new contract was possible, the answer was that one could be negotiated, submitted to the state for approval and to the voters in the community to approve a mandatory charge on the water bill.

It will remain possible for the MUD customers to voluntarily contribute to the department through their water bill and it should be noted that the SLVFD has responded to some calls for service since the termination.

While the future is not yet determined, Bacliff and other departments are prepared to fill any gaps in fire protection that may occur while this matter is being sorted out. San Leon needs and deserves a first rate fire department and EPP hopes the citizens understand that there are many dedicated and caring members of the department who should not be tainted by this situation. EPP will continue to bring news about this situation as it unfolds.

An Open Letter To The San Leon Community From San Leon Volunteer Fire Department Board President Hector Zelante

Many of you may know or perhaps are hearing for the first time that at the San Leon MUD Meeting held on 18 February, 2025, the MUD board voted to terminate the fire protection contract with the fire department. The termination of the contract was based on the fact that the fire department had not provided its contractually required financial audit for 2023 in a timely manner. As board president, I want the community to know that the fire department is comprised of many good, hard-working volunteers who care enough to donate their time, energy and sometimes money while placing themselves at risk to serve their community. Any failures of leadership or management of the department should not cause the community to think badly of those good and generous volunteers. While the fire department board of directors and the officers in the department work to find a positive way forward after this unfortunate circumstance, I ask that you continue to make your monthly contribution to the fire department on your water bill, which as a result of this contract termination has become voluntary rather than mandatory. The unfortunate reality is that the fire department needs money to pay the expenses that allow the trucks to roll when tragedy strikes and that money has to come from the community. Change will necessarily happen within the department and I hope that the department and its members can re-earn the confidence and respect from both the San Leon MUD board and the community it serves. For 70 years the SLVFD has served to defend people and property and with hard work and continued support through these trying times, it will continue to do so. I look forward to keeping you informed through the process.

Respectfully, Hector Zelante Board President, SLVFD



This week's Galveston County Animal Resource Center Pets of the Week Annie.

Meet Annie (A038118) a 10 month old Labrador mix who hasn't had the easiest start, but she's not letting that hold her back. She and her sibling are still waiting for their shot at a real home after watching their littermate get adopted. She's full of energy, always ready to play, and loves hanging out with other dogs. Despite everything, she's as sweet as they come and just wants to be loved. Annie's hoping for a family who sees her for the amazing dog she is. She's ready for her second chance—maybe it's with you.

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

Annie will be available for \$42.50 from Tuesday Feb 25th – Mar 1st, 2025.

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.



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



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





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

Galveston County Hazardous Waste Day

Date:
March 1st, 2025

Time:
10:00am to 4:00pm

Location:
10 Jack Brooks Rd.
Hitchcock, Texas



Restaurant Review


Pillo's Mexican Grill occupies the building which used to be Hartz chicken in League City on Main Street just across the freeway. Old timers will remember the building as being the longtime home of Pizza Inn. The place is fairly new and is clean with friendly and helpful staff. Prices were a little above moderate with a plate of fajita nachos, a soft drink and a pastor chimichanga plate coming in at \$35.86 before tip. The soft drink was priced at \$3.64 which EPP considers rather outrageous, but it does seem to be the current trend. The food was well prepared and tasty, the salsas fresh and enjoyable as well. EPP routinely asks for the "salsa picosa" which means spicy and which many places have but do not publicize. It was flavorful and not unpleasantly hot. If there was one complaint, it would be that the plates were not themselves hot to the touch which allowed the food to cool a bit too rapidly. We are all used to "hot plate, hot plate" at a Mexican restaurant. All in all, not the best value in the area, but definitely a place that will rate a return visit.

fixurpet.com

Support their organization if you can and use their services if you need to. Fix Ur Pet is located in Santa Fe and provides low cost services for dogs and cats. Check them out on their website. EPP can confirm that they are a good group doing good things for the communities they serve.



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MARCH 15TH, 2025 COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR

**Co-Hosted by: UTMB School
of Nursing & Bayside Lions
Club**

Where: 8 am – 12 pm at 600 Grand Ave, Bacliff, TX 77518

Join us for a day of free services and education to support our community! Take part in the Community Health & Wellness Fair while enjoying the Bayside Lions Club's delicious Pancake Breakfast.



Stations Available:	
Hair Cuts	Limited availability! Free haircuts by Professional Barber Students for those in need. Text 440-622-9664 to reserve your spot today!
Vision/Hearing Screening	Get your vision and hearing checked by student professionals.
Glucose Screening & Manual Blood Pressure Checks	Stay on top of your health with free screenings.
Pharmacist Consultation & Education	Learn about medications, proper use, and tips for healthy living.
Cyber Safety	Stay safe online with tips from experts.
CPR Training	Learn life-saving CPR techniques.
Dental Care	Free toothbrushes, toothpaste, and dental education.
Drug Awareness & Mental Health Support	Resources and information to promote mental well-being.

Free services, and no registration required!

Come by and receive pancakes, valuable resources and support for you and your family!

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STATEPOINT CROSSWORD

THEME: THE 1960s

ACROSS

1. Unit of electrical capacity F
6. Knicks' org.
9. Herring's cousin
13. City in Belgium
14. *The Beatles hit "Drive My ____"
15. Monument to Buddha
16. Like beer at a kegger (2 words)
17. Affirmative to captain
18. Like a beaver?
19. *Che's last name
21. *Stonewall riots location
23. Division of time
24. West African country
25. Refuse to comply
28. *The Jackson 5 co-founder
30. *Don ____ of Barney Fife fame
35. Soon, to a bard
37. Hyperbolic tangent
39. Sunlight's interference
40. *Apollo Moon Landing org.
41. Operatic solos
43. Alexander Hamilton/Aaron Burr incident
44. Deposit the ashes
46. Related to ear
47. Meat in a can
48. Transport onward, as in letter (2 words)
50. Not written
52. Pilot's estimate, acr.
53. Ill-mannered one
55. Hawaiian welcome wreath
57. *Ford's pony car
61. *Assassinated president
65. "____ death do us part"
66. Down Under runner
68. Hindu caste
69. Moonshine maker
70. *Spock's was pointy
71. Comforter stuffing
72. Ruptured
73. Ground cover
74. Coach-and-four

DOWN

1. Use a cat o' nine tails
2. Hokkaido language
3. Network of nerves
4. Mojave plant
5. Go away
6. March Madness org.
7. * ____ of Pigs, failed military operation
8. Madison Square Garden, e.g.
9. Command to Fido
10. Designer Boss
11. Copycat
12. Sinister side in "Star Wars"
15. Garment-making
20. Yogurt-based dip
22. Benevolent one
24. Hall order keeper
25. *Joplin of "Summertime" fame
26. Foolish
27. Same as boatswain
29. Tropical tuber
31. Auto pioneer
32. Brownish gray
33. Something yummy
34. *Certain march starting point
36. Backgammon predecessor
38. *Place for a flower
42. Part of mermaid's tale
45. Cricket umpire's call (2 words)
49. Not, prefix
51. Optical devices
54. S-shaped moldings
56. Arctic people
57. Necessary thing
58. Archaic preposition
59. *Bob Marley's hit " ____ It Up"
60. Fresco piece
61. Kurdistan native
62. Cocoyam
63. Fortune-telling coffee remnants
64. Ready and eager
67. *Zedong of Cultural Revolution

CROSSWORD											
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SOLUTION TO CROSSWORD
AND SUDOKU ON
PAGE 6

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CONSERVATIVE REPUBLICAN
MAYES
Middleton
 OUR TEXAS SENATOR



Fellow Texan,

The Senate has been hard at work passing property tax relief and delivering on conservative priorities. Last week, I filed S.B. 11 to put prayer back in public schools, a priority of Lt. Governor Dan Patrick and President Trump.



PUTTING PRAYER BACK IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Our schools are not God free zones. We are a state and nation built on “In God We Trust.” You have to ask: are our schools better or worse off since prayer was taken out in the 1960s? Litigious atheists are no longer going to get to decide for everyone else if students and educators exercise their religious liberties during school hours.

Thank you President Trump and Lt. Governor Patrick for making prayer in public schools a top priority. Senate Bill 11 allows a student, with parental consent, to opt into a period of prayer and reading of the Bible, or other religious texts. There is no such thing as “separation of church and state” in our Constitution, and recent Supreme Court decisions by President Trump’s appointees reaffirmed this. The goal of this bill is to promote freedom of religion for teachers and students in the place where they spend most of their time—school.

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF IS ON THE WAY

Last week, I began my role as Vice Chair on the Committee on Local Government to discuss S.B. 4 and much needed property tax relief for all Texans, especially our senior population. Senator Bettencourt’s bill provides the most constitutionally permanent and direct route to relief as it eliminates a portion of your school tax bill. One of the things I remember most about knocking on doors is people telling me that they would have to sell their family homes where their children, siblings, and parents grew up. We must pass property tax relief to make sure Texans aren’t taxed out of their homes, and S.B. 4 ensures exactly that.

Homeowners aged 65 years or older would qualify for an additional \$10,000, for a total homestead exemption of \$150,000. Over 69% of homeowners would not pay school tax currently under the bill, and that number is nearly 80% for seniors. I voted to pass this legislation and take a stand against the out of control cost of owning a home in Texas.

God Bless Texas,

Mayes Middleton

Scotch Eggs

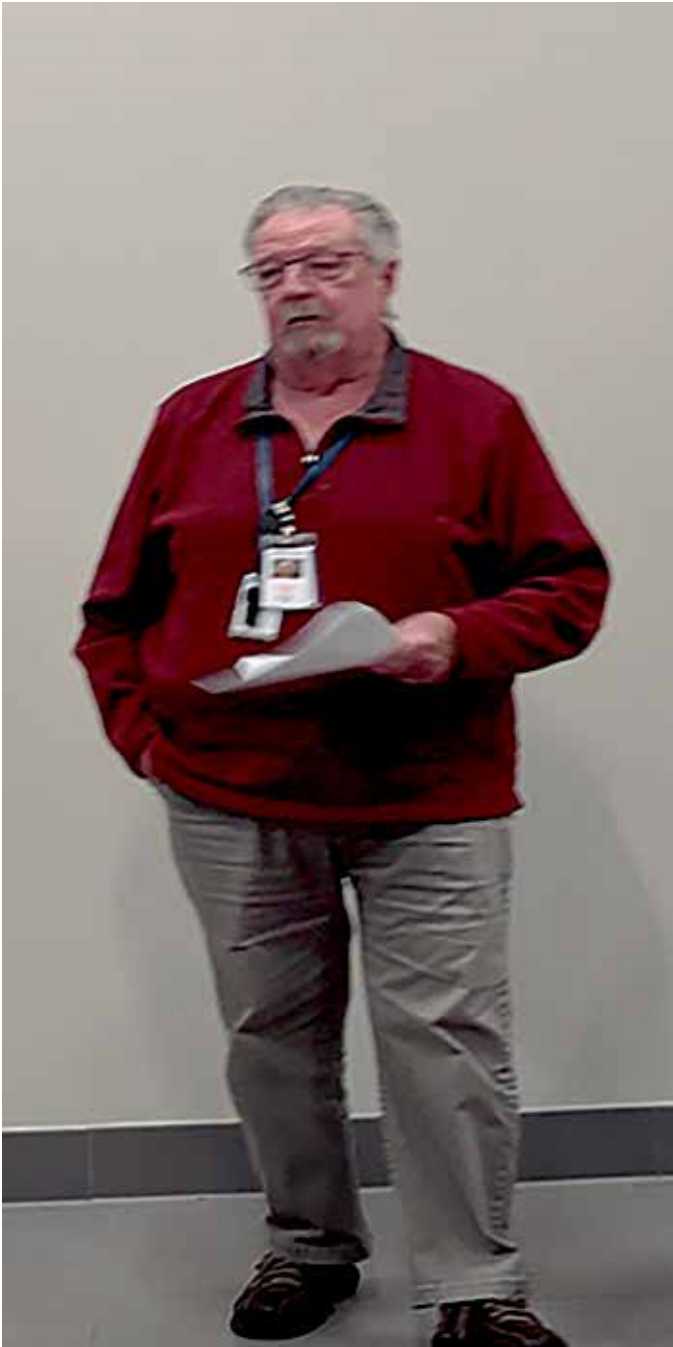
Hard boiled eggs
 Pork sausage
 Bread crumbs

Have one egg per person; wrap each peeled egg in sufficient sausage to make a little ball around the egg. Brush with beaten raw egg and roll in bread crumbs. Put in refrigerator to get cold; will keep overnight. Put an inch of grease in heavy skillet and get it very hot. Place eggs in hot grease and fry until sausage is done, about 15 minutes. Drain off excess grease and cut in half length wise. Serve immediately.

Great for brunch, supper or hor d'oeuvres.

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.



You Missed A Good One

51 year veteran of law enforcement and with a long specialty in investigation, Tommy Hansen gave a great talk at the recent Bayshore Town Square meeting held every third Thursday at the 10th Street courthouse annex in Bacliff. He discussed past cases, the hardships, successes and process that are part of solving tough murder cases and the like. Tommy has moved his talents to primarily serve Brazoria County, but will continue to work some cases in Galveston County. EPP suggests that if you live in or care about the Bayshore community you should attend these meetings.



It Happened Twice

At Spillway Park on Bayshore, Twice in the space of a month someone smashed the urinal in the men’s bathroom. This resulted in the bathrooms being closed twice while repairs were made at taxpayer expense. If you have information about who might have done this, contact the parks department or county law enforcement. Please report and help prevent vandalism of all public and private facilities in Galveston County.

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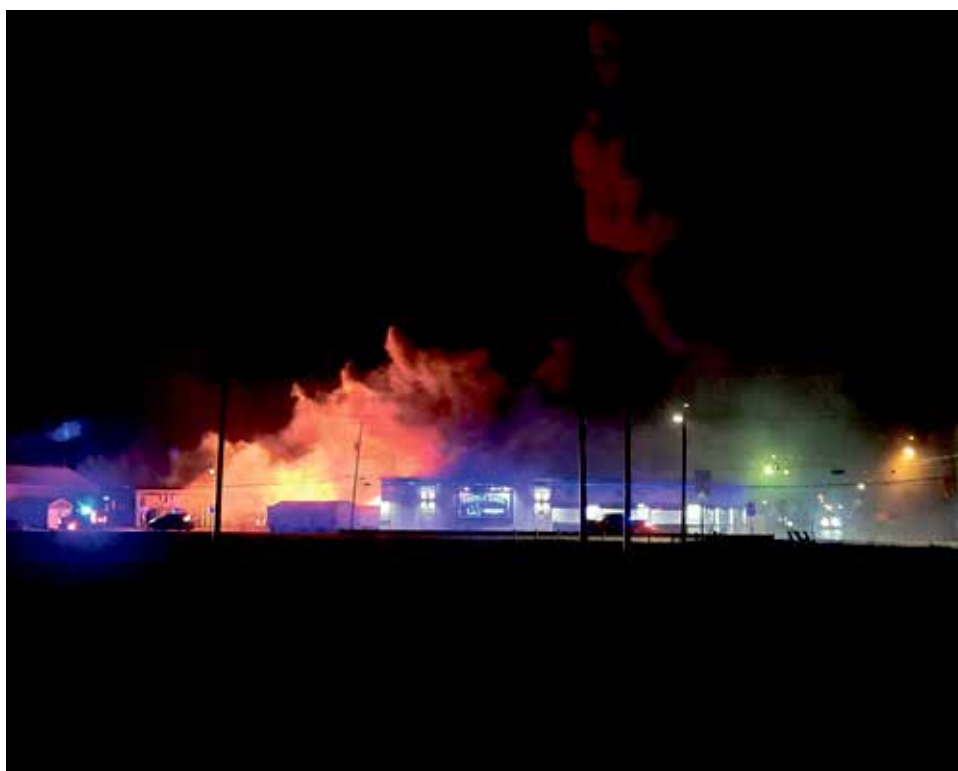
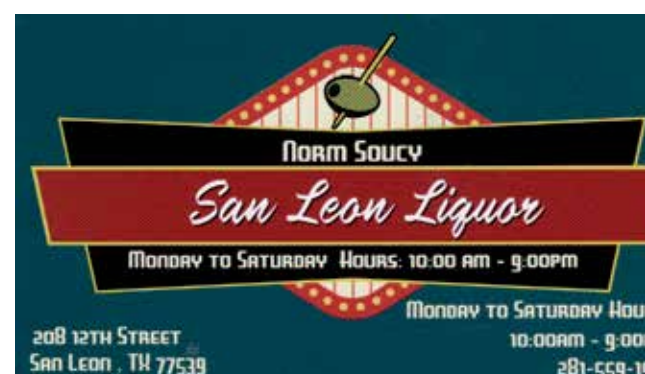
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They Put It Out

Last week a raging fire broke out at Golf Carts of Texas on Highway 146. Bacliff VFD was the initial responder with mutual aid from many surrounding agencies. It was a perfect storm of combustible materials. Tires, fiberglass, lithium batteries and the like made this a near impossible fire to extinguish. Every time a firefighter extinguished a lithium battery, it sprung back into a flaming mess. Six or more hours on scene led to eventual success, though the business was in ruins, no adjoining structures were lost and no injuries were reported.



A New Addition

Garrett Fultz has joined the Bacliff VFD. He is looking forward to being trained and ready to help the community. EPP salutes all the good volunteers that make life better and safer.



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Electronics Disposed Of Properly

Garret Foskit and Jack Ellison stand ready to direct Galveston County residents dropping off their unwanted electronics. Once directed, the next station has folks ready to sort those electronics by type and place them in appropriate bins for recycling. This program runs periodically under the direction of the Nuisance Abatement department which is now a part of the Sheriff's Office. Next up will be hazardous waste recycling as described in these pages. These are free programs so don't miss out on the opportunity to be responsible with your various unwanted waste items.

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