

COLUMNS

December 2024 | VOL. 52 NO. 12



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Office Hours 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

board@ppoaweb.com

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Mark Massey
Deedee Urbano

2nd Year

Doug Bacon
Randy Larson
Robert Taber, Jr.

3rd Year

Chris Fair
Ron Hamman
Pam Kuhlman

Officers

Robert Taber, Jr., *President*
Doug Bacon, *Vice President*
Randy Larson, *Secretary*
Pam Kuhlman, *Treasurer*

**OFFICES
CLOSED**

Dec 24, 25, 31
and Jan 1 for the
holidays!

**BOD Meeting:
Dec. 19, 2024, 6 p.m.**

**BOD Committee Workshop
Jan. 20 at 6 p.m. in the Ballroom**



COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

Committee	Frequency/Day	Time	Location
Airport	Dec. 12	8 a.m.	Planeview Park
Appeals	Dec. 10	10 a.m.	S&S Conference Room
ACC	Dec. 5 Dec. 19	2 p.m.	S&S Conference Room
Bylaws	Dec. 9	1 p.m.	CH Conference Room
Entertainment	Dec. 4	2 p.m.	CH Conference Room
Finance	Dec. 11	3:30 p.m.	CH Conference Room
Golf	Dec. 4	8:30 a.m.	Bluebonnet Room
Horse Owners	Dec. 10	3:30 p.m.	CH Conference Room
Infrastructure	Dec. 3	9 a.m.	CH Conference Room
LRP	Dec. 16	1:30 p.m.	CH Conference Room
Marina	No meeting in Dec	3 p.m.	CH Conference Room
Safety & Security	Dec. 17	9:30 a.m.	S&S Conference Room
Sports & Rec (Grounds)	Dec. 3	1 p.m.	PAC
Wildlife	Dec. 13	8:30 a.m.	CH Conference Room

MEETINGS ARE OPEN AND DATE/TIMES/VENUES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE.
PLEASE CHECK WWW.PPOAWEB.COM OR CALL THE CLUBHOUSE FOR LATEST INFORMATION BEFORE ATTENDING A MEETING.

New Member Orientation

Call Membership Services at 817-573-2641 ext. 335 or email memberservices@ppoaweb.com to schedule your New Member Appointment.

PECAN PLANTATION CLUBHOUSE AND OFFICES

8650 Westover Ct, Granbury TX 76049

www.ppoaweb.com | 817-573-2641

Office Hours 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

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Controller	Kristi Nickel	kristi@ppoaweb.com	333
Event Coordinator	Brenda Palmer	bpalmer@ppoaweb.com	325
Executive Chef/Food & Beverage Director	Jordan Ray	jray@ppoaweb.com	319
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HR Manager	Nancy Smith	nancy@ppoaweb.com	332
IT Specialist	Brian Stange	itadmin@ppoaweb.com	324
Marina and Procurement Manager	Blake Sanders	blakes@ppoaweb.com	323
Operations Manager	Daniel Van Patten	daniel@ppoaweb.com	342
Security Director	Harold Aydelott	harold@ppoaweb.com	341
Sports & Recreation Manager	Joi Keahey	joi@ppoaweb.com	361
Tennis Pro	John H. Ingram III	johni@ppoaweb.com	817-579-9412

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

Clubhouse	817-573-2641
Fire/EMS	817-573-1643
Code Enforcement/ACC	817-573-0594
Front Gate	682-498-6312
Back Gate	817-573-6561
Security Office	817-408-3511
Golf Pro Shop	817-573-2645
Tennis Shoppe	817-579-9412
19th Hole-2-Go	682-498-6319
PAC	817-573-7952
Marina	817-573-3201

GATE ACCESS

SECURITY OFFICES

8501 N. Monticello Dr.
Granbury, TX 76049

Please call the gate or use the ABDI app to put guests on the list before arrival - Security 817-408-3511.

Member tags and contractor decals issued at Security office Mon-Fri, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; and first Sat. of each month, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Member tags require registration, title or bill of sale, driver license and proof of insurance. Contractor decals require registration, driver license, proof of insurance.



PECAN
PLANTATION
COUNTRY CLUB

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The Spur Magazine · The Gatesville Area Guide
The Azle Chamber of Commerce Directory
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Columns is the official magazine of Pecan Plantation and is distributed to each household every month. We strive to provide residents with news and information about events, activities and people in the community. The views expressed by contributors may not necessarily be those of Columns Magazine or Hyde Media Group. All rights reserved and no part of this publication may be reproduced or copied in any form or by any means without the written permission of Hyde Media Group, LLC. © 2023.



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Darren Clark

Darren Clark can be found on the golf course (no, that guy is Darren Clarke—with an “e”), on the stage at the Granbury Opera House, or in his cubicle manipulating pixels into many of the Hyde Media Group’s publications. Darren is a designer, photographer and occasional writer.

Eden met Granbury 36 years ago and is grateful to have moved here in 2000. She and husband “Hug” raise/raised their two natives here. Eden loves her semi-bohemian lifestyle of hanging out with artists, writers and photographers both young and not as young. Her passions include coffee dates, succulents and making new friends.



Eden Duncan Gilbreath

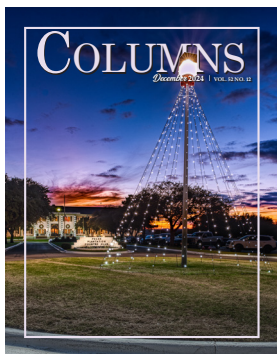


Karen Gomez

Karen picked up her first camera in 2011, then quickly discovered her love of both wildlife and aviation photography when she and her husband, Doug, moved to Pecan Plantation in 2016. Karen’s photographs have been on the covers of Columns magazine, and the wildlife Christmas and note cards they design and produce are big sellers during the holidays.



ON THE COVER



ON THE COVER

As the holiday season is firmly upon us, the December cover of Columns shows the beautiful tree of lights in front of the Pecan Plantation Clubhouse. The staff of Columns magazine wishes you and yours a joyous and safe holiday season!

Photo by Karen Gomez

Want to Contribute to Your Neighborhood Magazine?

See something that makes you think “that ought to be in the magazine”? Send us ideas for stories or photos of friends, family, nature, wildlife, sports action, special moments, and you might see it in print!

A few tips: Photos should be high quality JPGs—at least 4x6 inches at 300 dpi. If you are sending them from a smart device, choose “Actual Size” or “Original Size” to send. Low resolution, out of focus, inappropriate or otherwise poor-quality photos, or those that have been heavily edited or filtered, will not be published. Contact us at columns@hcnews.com

COLUMNS MAGAZINE DEADLINES

If you have editorial or photography for Columns, please write to Columns@hcnews.com. The deadline for submissions is the first day of the month prior to publication date. EX: Jan. 1 for the February issue.

Advertising closes on the first of the month prior to publication date. Contact Brittany, Heidi, or Madison at 817-573-7066.

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GENERAL MANAGER

From the desk
of Rick Lantgen

As we approach the close of 2024 and prepare to welcome the new year, I wanted to extend my warmest wishes to each of you this holiday season. This time of year always reminds me of the importance of community, togetherness, and the spirit of giving – and most importantly, family. I hope it does the same for you. On behalf of the staff here at Pecan and me, I want you to know how deeply grateful we are for the strong and caring community we are serving and building together.

Looking back on the past year, I am energized by all that we've accomplished. The efforts and contributions of our Board, committees and members, have continued to make our community a welcoming, vibrant and safe place to call home. Our work does not stop here, though, and I am excited for all 2025 has in store. Together, we will continue to move forward with optimism, progress and commitment to the values and standards that make Pecan Plantation such a wonderful place to live.

I would also like to extend a special thank you to the hard-working members of the Pecan Plantation Woman's Club for all the beautiful work decorating the clubhouse and other areas of the neighborhood. Their time, talent, energy and creativity really inject the holiday spirit into our community spaces. We are all so fortunate to enjoy the results of these ladies' dedication. Their efforts add to the very long list of items that make Pecan Plantation special. As always, they have done a spectacular job. (You really know you are home of the holidays when you see the bridge lit up!)

In closing, may Christmas bring you and your loved ones joy and may the new year be filled with health, prosperity and peace. See you in 2025!

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MGA SCHEDULE

MGA TOURNAMENTS AND EVENTS
SAVE THE DATE!

DECEMBER

12/7 TOYS 4 TOTS SCRAMBLE (MIXED)

12/12 2 MAN SHAMBLE (COUNT BB) PSST



Hello everyone!!
Well, it's official. Winter is here, but we're still going to play golf.
Our annual MGA meeting was Saturday, Nov. 9, and we had a great turnout. Congratulations to the newly elected board members. We're looking forward to working with you.
The holiday season is upon us. We hope everyone gets the opportunity

to visit and enjoy family during the Christmas holidays. Please be safe if you're traveling by air or on our highways.
As always, "Hit em straight!"
HAPPY NEW YEAR! We hope to see you in 2025!

Robert Forshee/MGA president

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I can't believe it is already Christmas. I have no clue where this year has gone.

November was an eventful month. Suburban at Pecan had more than 100 players and Pecan LGA won the Low Net Trophy. Congratulations, Pecan! Thanks to Patti Andrews and Tami Hackney for their hard work and successful event. Our November meeting held elections for 2025. Congratulations to Tonta McCleod and her new board.

Our Christmas party was a beautiful event. Thanks to Laura Sorrells and Donna Berry for the festive decorations and joyful celebration of the season. Year-end awards were passed out and we congratulate all the winners.

This is my last LGA article of 2024. I have enjoyed being president and am honored to have served during this 50th anniversary of golf at Pecan. I wish all of you a Merry Christmas and hope the spirit of love and joy for the celebration of Christ is shared by all.

Marilyn Neely



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~ Clayton and Sherry Holmes



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JUNIOR TENNIS

Wednesdays
4:30-5:30 p.m.

Sessions:
IV Dec. 4 – Dec. 18

Thanks so much to our wonderful tennis players who helped us make it through another year! Special appreciation goes to "Madam PPTA President" Dee Wilcox and her dedicated board for putting together some very enjoyable events!

Speaking of events, PPTA is hosting the "Snowball Express" holiday mixer Friday, Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. Come join us for tennis, food, camaraderie and festive fun!

Best wishes to our own Nick and Jo Conte, who recently moved to Waxahachie to be near family. They've been here since 1978, and Nick was our first tennis professional! Thanks for all the wonderful memories!

If you're looking for holiday gift ideas, check with the Tennis Shoppe for suggestions for your tennis friends. Ask about "Santa Special" lesson packages, racquet tune-ups, etc.

As always, our sincere appreciation goes to Pecan's Woman's Club for its fabulous Christmas decorations!

This holiday season is a perfect time to reflect on our blessings and seek out ways to make life better for those around us.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM YOUR TENNIS SHOPPE STAFF!!



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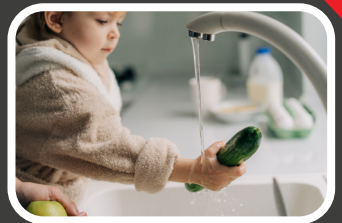
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PECAN PLANTATION TENNIS ASSOCIATION



Nick and Jo Conte

The Pecan Plantation Tennis Association's Octoberfest mixer Oct. 11 was a great success! A big thanks to Jeff and Gail Irwin for bringing two delicious briskets and all the fixings.

Best wishes for Nick and Jo Conte who are moving to Waxahachie. Nick was Pecan's first tennis pro and served for 46 years. He was also the director of recreation here in Pecan. We will miss y'all!

Ann Dahlquist joined our party from Mission Granbury and spoke to us about its needs. Thank you to all our members who brought canned goods.

On Oct. 26, PPTA had its pirate ship at the Trunk or Treat at the PAC. Our pirates handed out candy to 200 kids! On Nov. 12, we honored our volunteers at a luncheon in the Brazos room. We welcome new tennis players, come join PPTA and you will enjoy not only tennis, but all the fun parties we have!

Madam President
Dee Wilcox



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PECAN ACTIVITY CENTER

DECEMBER 2024

SPORTS & RECREATION
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Monday to Saturday 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Sunday noon to 6 p.m.
Wednesdays 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

SPECIAL CLASSES AND EVENTS

Brunch & Pictures with Santa at Clubhouse

Sunday, Dec 1, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Stop by the clubhouse to eat brunch and visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Bring your camera to take photos.

Be sure to make your brunch reservation. 817-573-2641.

Gingerbread House Family Decorating Event

Sunday, Dec. 15, Starts at 3 p.m.

Cost: \$20 per house - limit one per family

Includes everything you will need for yourself or the whole family to come and decorate a Gingerbread house.

Lots of extra decorations. Loads of fun.

The best part is we clean up the mess.

Only 10 houses available. Must pre-register. 817-573-7952

Dodgeball at the PAC

Friday, Dec. 27 at 2 p.m.

Open to all ages. Just show up and have some fun. We use no sting dodgeballs.

Gingerbread House Family Decorating Event

Sunday, Dec. 15 Starts at 3 p.m.

Cost: \$20 per house - limit one per family

Includes everything you will need for yourself or the whole family to come and decorate a Gingerbread house.

Lots of extra decorations. Loads of fun.

The best part is we clean up the mess.

Only 10 houses available. Must pre-register. 817-573-7952

Learn to Draw - The Basics (Ages 10+)

Sunday, Dec. 8, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Cost: \$50 - includes all supplies

Instructor: Kathy Yoders

If you can draw a circle you can learn to draw!

Dance Classes for Kids

Every Monday

Mini Tots Ballet and Tap: (18 mo to 4) 3:30 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.

Ballet/Tap/Jazz/Hip-Hop Combo: (ages 5+) 4:15 p.m. - 5 p.m.

Cost: \$60/month

Instructor: Dance Dreams Academy

Cornhole at the PAC

Every Monday in Gymnasium

5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

For more info contact Glenn Faucett at

559-827-7777 or faucettglenn@gmail.com

Santa at the Stables

Sunday, Dec. 8, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

\$20 per vehicle - includes photos with Santa, horse rides, crafts, cocoa, cookies, and candy canes. Hot dogs, chips and drinks available for purchase. Raffle baskets.

EXERCISE CLASSES

Yoga with DeDe

Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri (9 a.m. - 10 a.m.)

Cost: \$10/class or \$35/month (4 classes) or \$65/month (8 classes) or \$95/month unlimited classes

Certified Instructor: DeDe Lamont

Chair Yoga with DeDe

Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday (10:15 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.)

Cost: \$10/class or \$35/month (4 classes) or \$65/month (8 classes)

Certified Instructor: DeDe Lamont

Pilates

Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri (8 a.m. - 8:45 a.m.)

Cost: \$3/class

Instructor: Shawn Farris (Please bring your own mat)

Low Impact Aerobics

Mon, Tues, Weds, Thurs, & Fri (8 a.m. - 9 a.m.)

Saturday (9 a.m. - 10 a.m.)

Cost: \$3/class

Bring hand weights & a mat if possible

Line Dancing - Free

Fridays (10:30 a.m. - noon)

Intermediate dancers meeting for practice, exercise, fun.

No Instruction.

PICKLEBALL

Indoor Pickleball Schedule

Open play Weekdays (9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.)

Open play Wednesday (9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.)

Family Friendly Open Play

Tues & Fri Evenings (6 p.m. - 7:45 p.m.)

Sundays (12 p.m. - 2 p.m.)

Ladies Only Open Play - Tuesdays (1 p.m. - 3 p.m.)

No Play Dec. 20 to Jan. 13

Indoor Beginner Clinic - Nov. 12

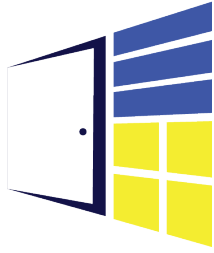
(Limit 8 people, sign up at PAC)

Three outdoor courts are available with a reservation from 7 a.m. - 10 p.m. through PPOA app or website.

The Sports & Recreation Committee will not meet Dec. 3. The next meeting is Jan. 7 at 1 p.m. at the PAC.

The PAC Holiday Closings

Dec. 24: Christmas Eve CLOSED
Dec. 25: Christmas CLOSED
Dec. 31: closing at 3 p.m.
Jan. 1: New Years Day CLOSED



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PECAN PLANTATION WOMAN'S CLUB

By Gerta Howell, president

PECAN PLANATION WOMAN'S CLUB HAS TRULY BRIGHTENED OUR COMMUNITY

The Pecan Planation Woman's Club décor committee has "decked the halls" of every area of Pecan Plantation in a spectacular manner. This year, under the direction of Allison Gilmore, these wonderful ladies were able to accomplish this before Thanksgiving. They wanted our community's family members visiting for Thanksgiving to be able to enjoy how beautiful Pecan Plantation is at Christmas. The Christmas Golf Cart Parade was the icing on the cake — a merry, festive event, climaxing in the Lighting of Pecan and cookies and pictures with Santa.

Hopefully, you have made your reservation for our annual PPWC Christmas Tour of Homes Dec. 12. This year we have seven unique and beautifully decorated homes. Tour homes from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., giving you enough time to thoroughly enjoy the decorations in each home. Additionally, you can partake in a wonderful Blitzen's Bellini Holiday Brunch and fabulous Jingle & Mingle Holiday Dinner prepared by our own Chef Jordan. Brunch has three menu options and is open from 8:30 a.m. until noon, reservations required. This leaves time for you to shop at Santa's Workshop & Bakery from 8 a.m. until noon. The entire Ballroom will be filled with all types of Christmas décor and gift items, plus delicious baked goods and candies. Come early and shop 'til you drop! All the proceeds from the Christmas Tour of Homes goes to fund our community decorations and lights for next year, making each year better than the last. The Dinner Dance (reservations required) begins at 6 p.m. with cocktails, followed by dinner; dancing and cocktails follow from 8:30 to 11 p.m. This year we are honored to have Monty Lewis as our master of ceremonies and there will be a grand prize raffle for those attending the dinner. Wear your Christmas finery and "Jingle and Mingle!"

Tour Only tickets can be purchased until noon Dec. 12. Brunch and dinner ticket sales close at 3 p.m. Dec. 5. Purchase your tickets at www.myppwc.com/christmas-tour.

For all the ladies in Pecan, we welcome you to come to a Pecan Plantation Woman's Club luncheon on the third Thursday of each month (no meeting in December). We love having guests and have a great time. For more information about Pecan Plantation Woman's Club or the Christmas Tour of Homes, call Gerta Howell at 210-379-3053.

Wishing all members of Pecan Plantation a Merry Christmas, a Happy Hanukkah, a Happy Kwanzaa and blessings in the New Year!



The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club presents



DECEMBER 12, 2024
Tour 6 Beautiful Homes

Come & Go - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

*Santa's Workshop
& Bakery*

Pecan Plantation Country Club

Browse & Shop - 8:00 am - 12:00 pm

Tour, Wine & Dine

Three Christmas Tour Ticket Options

***TOUR ONLY ~ \$25.00**

*Tour not included in
Brunch or Dinner Package*

*Includes Tour Ticket & map, 5 raffle tickets, *1 special raffle
Must be purchased separately, Credit Card Only*

BLITZEN'S BELLINI BRUNCH ~ \$25.00

*Holiday Brunch 8:30 am - 12:00 pm
(Seating in 30 minute intervals)*

Cash Bar 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Must be purchased separately, Credit Card Only

JINGLE & MINGLE DINNER ~ \$80.00

*Cocktails at 6:00 pm, Dinner following
Dancing & Cocktails 8:30 - 11:00 pm
Wear your Christmas finery!*

*Includes Grand Prize Raffle Ticket & *1 special raffle
Must be purchased separately, Credit Card Only*

**Brunch & Dinner Packages Includes Tax, Gratuity and Service Fee.*

**1 special raffle for Claudette Lewis Original Santa*

Additional Raffle Tickets available for purchase day of Tour 8:00 - Noon.

Purchase Tickets online at www.mypwc.com/christmas-tour

Cancellation Date Brunch/Dinner: December 5, 2024

Pick up Tour Packages on December 14th at the Clubhouse.



Brunch & Dinner Ticket Package Sales Close at 3:00 p.m. December 5th - Tour Package Ticket Sales Close at Noon, December 12th

RV CLUB NEWS

By Glenna Haskell, VP

Hello fellow RVers! Can you believe Christmas is almost here? This past year has flown by so quickly. I have had the opportunity this year to get to know a lot of our members. We have the best group of people. This is a very active group. Not only did I get to publish our rallies and meetings but several members sent me pictures of their travels over the summer.

Our last rally for the year we met in Hot Springs, Arkansas at the Finish Line RV campground right around the corner from the casino and horse track. The campground is owned by member Sharon Green's niece by marriage and nephew Greg Hatcher. The RV camp is beautiful, I will certainly go back next time I'm in Hot Springs. Sharon and Bill Green, along with Tom and Jackie Schmersahl, co-hosted the rally. We went to the Gangster Museum and learned all about Hot Springs "heydays" where gangsters like Al Capone spent vacations. We toured the bath houses, went to Garvan Gardens and walked the beautiful gardens and water falls and the wood and glass chapel, which was amazing. We went up to the watch tower to see a bird's-eye view of Hot Springs and some of the men golfed. Bill Winkler, a nongolfer, was encouraged to try his hand at golfing. He won the Traveling Ostrich award. Of course, we did a lot of eating out and socializing. The highlight of the meals, a barbecue, was hosted by Greg Hatcher at his beautiful home on the lake. He was so gracious to share his home with us. We even got the grand tour of the house. Thank you to the Greens and Schmersahls for a fantastic rally.

At our October meeting the 2024 nominating committee, comprised of chairman Tom Schmersahl and members Barb Wilson, Keith Brown and alternate Nan Coleman, nominated the following 2025 slate of officers: Glenna Haskell, president; Debbie Nail, vice president; Barb Wilson, treasurer; and Judy Henson, secretary. Rally masters for 2025 will be a committee comprised of Tom Schmersahl, Ron Nail and Steve Boggs. We would like to thank the outgoing officers and rally masters for their hard work this past year: President Gene Chappe; VP Glenna Haskell; Treasurer Judy Winker; Secretary, Judy Henson; and rally masters Angie and Jay Brown.

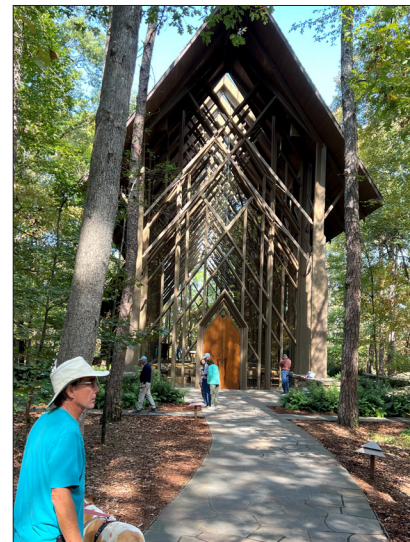
Upcoming event:

November Meeting – Don and Kim McDonald's Hangar. (more info to come)

December Christmas Party – at the clubhouse Dec. 10 at 6 p.m. (more information to come)

Remember, send me any and all pictures with a brief description of where you went and what you did for Columns. You may find more information about the RV Club on our website at ppoarv.org. If you haven't visited the website, it is a great place to get information about all our upcoming events.

Glenna Haskell, VP





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ART MATTERS

By Cheryl Moore

Membership in the Pecan Plantation Art Guild is open to all Pecan Plantation residents who are interested in art. Our meetings are on the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. at the Pecan Activity Center. Dues are \$35 per calendar year. For more information, visit our website at pecanplantationartguild.com



MEMBER PROFILES *We are grateful to retiring board members*

Barbara Brown, first vice-president, membership

When Barbara and her husband left California, where she was born and raised, to retire in Pecan Plantation, she began to pursue her dream to become an artist. She left behind her beloved desert community of La Quinta, busy careers and two grown sons, and quickly became involved in art lessons and showed her creativity by implementing her signature experimental techniques. The PPAG has become a fellowship



of artists and friends for her, and she has contributed greatly to its success, serving several board positions, participating actively in shows and projects, and serving as a leader in many events, including successfully chairing the very popular Gallery Night 10. She encourages new neighbors and friends of Pecan to get involved in the Art Guild and to inspire new ideas for its growth and community outreach.

Margaret Gulinson, recording secretary

This West Texas girl from Big Spring pursued a career in interior design until 10 years ago. Having rendered her work in watercolor as a student at the University of Texas in Austin, Margaret decided to take up oil painting when she and her husband moved to Pecan Plantation. Today, she paints at home in her studio and weekly with other Pecan Plantation artists. She has been active in the Pecan Plantation Art Guild



and enjoys spending time with creative people. She is fond of painting family and pets from your photographs or hers. She is available for commissions. mgulinson@gmail.com, 214-868-7455

Join the Fun!

**CHRISTMAS PARTY
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10**

There is no regular daytime meeting in December. Regular meetings the second Thursday of each month at 1 p.m. resume in January.

If you've been thinking about joining the Pecan Plantation Art Guild but have been procrastinating, wait no more! Join now and be a part of our Christmas Gala! Instead of a meeting Dec. 10, we will celebrate the season with a savory entrée prepared by professional Chef Chip Annen, embellishing a Cure 81 Ham with his famous glaze, accompanied by a sumptuous buffet of artistically prepared side dishes and desserts from our own artists. Be comfortable: dress is "Christmas Casual," which can take your imagination anywhere. How could you resist? We also have an abundance of wine for toasting as we salute a smashingly successful year led by our board of directors, several of whom will be making way for new officers starting in January. So join the Art Guild for only \$35, then join us at the EMS meeting room at 6 p.m. Dec. 10.

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BRAZOS RIVER SPORTSMAN'S CLUB

By Cecil Caldwell



Bob Price with a nice catfish.

With the late arrival of cool, fall weather this year, members have taken advantage of the weather to do some fishing at Comanche Creek Reservoir after it opened the first of October. We had a club outing and hotdog lunch at the lake, catching a lot of catfish for our club fish fry. Later in the month several members returned on a cooler day to catch a lot of fish again. We caught at least 100 fish, but only kept larger ones and still brought 42 home.

We are well into hunting season here in Texas so hopefully I will have some pictures to post next month of successful hunts. Our shotgunners have been having regular outings as the cooler weather makes for more bearable conditions.

The club had its fall fish fry recently and had an abundance of fish provided by and cooked by our members. Thanks to Joe Fritz and Bob Price for cooking fish, and Mack Gilbreath for cooking hush puppies and appetizers.

We are looking forward to our annual Christmas Party Dec. 10 in conjunction with the Pecan RV Club. Many of our members are in both clubs.

Have a Merry Christmas and safe New Year.

If you have any questions regarding the club, please email ccald67@gmail.com.



Jerry Sprayberry, Mike Margle and Bob Price cleaning fish after having lunch back at the Pecan Pit.



Cecil Caldwell, Mike Margle, Jerry Sprayberry and Clyde Wilson on the water.

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ACC REPORT

The number of new home permits during October 2024 made the usual autumn jump for new homes to be finished by spring with the ACC approving nine new residence construction permits, 12 miscellaneous construction permits, and no construction revisions or permit extensions.

The ACC construction permit list currently contains 50 active permits for new homes under construction and 29 active miscellaneous permits for various other improvements.

The following new homes were approved to begin construction during October 2024:

Address	Sq/Ft Living Area	Owner	Builder
2304 Candlestick Dr.	2656	Rafeeq Ahmed	Rafeeq Ahmed
5006 Piper Dr.	3344	Richard Labrum	Donny Couto
1142 E. Landings N.	2641	Ted Wilson	John Moore
1133 Tremont Ln.	2177	Donny Couto	Donny Couto
2416 Candlestick Dr.	3198	Opulent Builders	NextGen Builders
1472 Cirrus Loop	3914	Weldon Russo	Jacob Freeman
105 Hazlewood Ct.	2699	Julie Herrmann	Chris Thomas
2037 Skylane Dr.	4085	William Aston	Jacob Freeman
2164 Middlewood Cir.	2442	Derek Tanner	Derek Tanner

COMPLIANCE CORNER

During October 2024, the compliance office received 66 calls and 35 emails reporting possible compliance issues, 41 calls and 19 emails regarding vacant property maintenance, plus 633 calls and 127 emails requesting ACC, plat/lot, rules, C&R or construction information.

HOME SALE NOTE Upon the sale or transfer of home ownership by any other means, Section-15 of PPOA Rules & Regulations requires residential property to be in compliance with all applicable elements of PPOA's governing documents. If ownership is transferred with an existing noncompliant issue, the new owner will be responsible for bringing the property into compliance. When it is requested by a title company, lending institution or prospective buyer, PPOA will perform a compliance inspection and return a report stating whether or not the property is in compliance and detail any deficiency if it is not. Since compliance certification requests are frequently received only a few days before the scheduled closing date, we remind members contemplating the sale of their home to help avoid any last-minute surprises or delays by contacting membership services at the PPOA business office to arrange an early inspection of the property to identify any existing issue that may require corrective action.



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EMS

By Brandl Stephenson BA, LP, FP-C, EMS Chief

Good day, Pecan. Your Pecan EMS service has, for the month of October, run 99 calls for service.

It's been quite the month. I'm extremely happy to report that, under the leadership of Fire Chief Sam Greif, the VFD has bolstered its membership to over 20 new and returning volunteer firefighters. I myself started as a volunteer firefighter and it's with a great deal of pride and respect I watch our VFD personnel learn, train and respond to fire emergencies here in Pecan. We are currently working on a game plan to have the engine responding to EMS calls for additional personnel and to assist the EMS crews on scene. I feel this is a great way for the two arms of Pecan Plantation Volunteer Fire Department and EMS Inc to come together: training and working as a single department.

Our EMS call volume continues to grow and we've hired some new people to assist us with it. I'm looking forward to introducing them, or rather, have them introduce themselves. I hope you never need to call us, but if you do, rest assured our new crewmembers will possess the same compassion and expertise you've come to expect.

Thank you to everyone who has been a part of our department during these periods of transition, growth and change. As with any change, there are growing pains, but we are always here to discuss the Pecan Fire and EMS Department with you. Thank you for your continued support

of your department.

Please take a moment and remember those who serve, both at home and abroad. Your prayers and well-wishes really do carry weight, and are greatly appreciated.

Remember to call 911 for emergencies. We're here for you!



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COMMUNITY GARDENS

By Steph Phalen

PRESIDENT SUSAN HARRIS

Susan checks all the boxes for being a president par excellence. She's a prodigious leader who plans, plants, picks and posts. Our community gardens have never looked better, and it's largely due to Susan's efforts. Thank you, Susan, for your positive leadership.

We appreciate you and wish you a first-class birthday Dec. 5.



FRIENDSHIP TEA MIX 101

Ingredients

- 1 cup Tang orange drink mix
- 1/2 cup instant iced tea, unsweetened
- 1/2 cup instant lemonade powder, sweetened
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- Red Hots (optional)

Friendship Tea Mixture

1. Combine instant tea, Tang mix, lemonade powder (such as Country Time), and spices in a bowl, plastic bag or other container and mix well. I use a whisk.

2. Store the spiced tea mix in a 16-ounce mason jar or other sealed container. Double the recipe to fill a 32-ounce mason jar.

As we close out a great gardening year, we want to thank all of our members for their hard work and dedication. We had bumper crops of organic vegetables and herbs. We began 2024 with asparagus, snow peas, lettuce, kale, radishes, Swiss chard, carrots, turnips, green beans, spinach and garlic. Our members had plenty of oregano, rosemary, chives, and basil to spice up their meals. CGC also had a record crop of large, beautiful, sweet yellow, mild white and spicy red onions. Members had fun digging up pounds of red and yellow potatoes. They also enjoyed blackberries for the first time this year. In June, we relished tomatoes, peppers and an abundance of okra. Our fall garden allowed us to harvest many of these same organic vegetables all the way through the end of November and beyond. Garlic and onions are already in the garden for a 2025 harvest.

It wasn't all about digging, planting and harvesting. Members gathered for Happy Hours in the Garden and an exciting eclipse party along with carnival fundraisers for the kids' enjoyment.

We are hard at work on our spring garden plans. Learn more in the January 2025 issue of Columns.

Better yet, come join us. You, too, can be part of growing and enjoying organic produce. Members come from a variety of gardening backgrounds and all levels of expertise. Pick up an application at the PAC.

Wishing everyone Happy Holidays and a safe New Year!



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- ✓ Increased ER visits
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WIDOWS AND WIDOWERS CLUB

By Caryl Mahaffey

WIDOW AND WIDOWER'S CLUB DECEMBER PARTY

It hardly seems possible that we should be writing our last article for this year for the December Columns. This year has gone by so fast. As 2024 comes to an end, we have so much to be thankful for. We have had great programs this year, two field trips and wonderful food. We have made donations to the Bee Hive Assisted Living Center and to Joseph's Locker. We now have more than 75 paid members who come each month to share the evening with new friends who are on a similar path.

Our December party will be held Thursday, Dec. 5 in the Pecan Plantation Ballroom at 5:30 p.m. We will celebrate this joyous season with Monty Lewis as our master of ceremonies and entertainer. Also, back again to bring Christmas stories will be our friend, Anna Langley. Both entertainers will make a lively, fun evening as we party the evening away.

The chef has planned a Christmas dinner for us with a special salad for the salad lovers.

MENU A

Ham, sweet potatoes, squash and zucchini, rolls with butter and pecan pie

MENU B

Southwestern Caesar salad: romaine lettuce, fresh shaved parmesan cheese, roasted corn, red bell peppers and Caesar dressing. rolls and butter and pecan pie



Please RSVP for the December party at least seven days before the Dec. 5 event. RSVP by email to Caryl Mahaffey at caryl.mahaffey@charter.net (preferred) or call 817-964-5915.

Attendance is open to any widow or widower who lives in Pecan. An RSVP is necessary to attend the meeting. Come join us in December for a festive evening. Holiday attire is optional.

Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year to all our Pecan neighbors. Make many new memories and take pictures of them for your viewing later. We in W/W know the value of memories for later viewing.

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PICKLEBALL NEWS

By Jana Reeves



The Pecan Plantation Pickleball Association would like to thank all the community members that came out to grab a breakfast burrito or lunch taco during the Fall Community-wide garage sale. The support from our fellow residents is always greatly appreciated!

During October, several members of PPPA traveled to compete in tournaments and came home with medals. Congratulations to Lisa Moore and Sandra Hately who won gold in doubles and Kevin and Clarie Downing who won gold in mixed-doubles at the San Marcus Kissing Tree Tournament. Later in the month, David Burch and Tracy Davis won silver in doubles and Tracy and Jodi Davis won silver in mixed-doubles at the Oklahoma Senior Games Championship Tournament. From this tournament, both teams now qualify to play in the National Senior Games. Congrats to all!

Regular indoor adult play is every weekday from 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., except for Wednesday when play concludes at 11:30 a.m. Please be aware that starting Dec. 20, during the Christmas holiday, the morning hours will be from 9:30-11:30 a.m. every day. Regular times will resume Jan. 14 when the students return to school. Beginners Clinics will also take a break for December and will resume in the new year.

Family-friendly pickleball hours are Tuesday and Friday evenings from 6-7:45 p.m. and Sunday afternoons from noon to 2 p.m.

Ladies Pickleball is every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon from 1-3 p.m. All levels of play are welcome. The ladies will celebrate the holidays with a party Dec. 3. Watch for an email with more details. The ladies will also take a break from Dec. 20 through Jan. 14, 2025, while students are out of school.



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**Homes, food,
fun await
at Pecan
Plantation's**
Christmas
Tour of Homes



 *By Lauren Davis
Staff Writer*

Photos by Mary Vinson from the 2022 Tour of Homes



The Pecan Plantation Woman's Club invites the community to its beloved annual Christmas Tour of Homes Dec. 12. This full day of holiday cheer will showcase seven uniquely decorated homes, each offering an inspiring array of festive styles and warm traditions.

But there's more!

The day's events begin at 8 a.m. and promise a lineup of activities, including Santa's Workshop and Bakery, a hearty brunch, a festive home tour, and an elegant dinner with dancing at the Pecan Plantation Club.

This year, tickets are sold separately for each event to accommodate a range of preferences and budgets. The tour ticket is \$25, and brunch and dinner tickets are \$25 and \$80, respectively. Funds raised benefit scholarships for local students and community projects.

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Attendees can browse Santa's Workshop and bakery at the Pecan Plantation Country Club from 8 a.m. to noon, featuring handmade wreaths, artwork, stocking stuffers and unique holiday gifts donated by Woman's Club members. "Santa's Workshop is amazing," marketing manager Kathie Schoepf added, "and you don't need to buy a ticket for the tour to enjoy the workshop."

This year, the tour includes a special shopping treat organized by Vicki Winder, chair of the Santa's Workshop

and Bakery. She describes it as "a fairyland" filled with handcrafted and donated items. Starting at 8 a.m., Santa's Workshop and Bakery will offer a curated selection of handmade wreaths, holiday gifts and baked goods made by Woman's Club members.

Planning for this holiday event began in the summer, with Winder coordinating every detail to create a unique shopping experience. "All of our items are donated by the members of the Woman's Club," she said. To prepare, Winder has held workshops in her garage, affectionately dubbed "Santa's Workshop," to make bows and beaded wine glass stems. Once complete, the items are transported to the Pecan Plantation Country Club ballroom, where volunteers create a dazzling holiday scene.

BRUNCH!

Following Santa's Workshop, visitors can enjoy brunch with seating times available between 8:30 a.m. and noon. Pecan Plantation Executive Chef Jordan Ray's brunch menu includes three options:

- Sam's Big Breakfast with buttermilk biscuits, soft cheese, scrambled eggs, crispy potato cubes, sausage and bacon.
- Decadent chicken and waffles with paprika- and pepper-seasoned chicken atop fluffy waffles drizzled in maple syrup.
- Cajun shrimp and grits with jalapeño cheddar grits.

Tickets are required and are \$25 per person.

TOUR OF HOMES

The tour will run from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and is open to the general public. It will bring together locals and visitors from Hood County and beyond for a memorable holiday experience.

"Every homeowner brings their own personality to the decorations," said event director Debbie Kill. "We tell every homeowner, 'You do you,' and that's what makes each home special." From cozy spaces to homes adorned in full Christmas splendor, each home on the tour reflects its owners' individuality, including one with restored doors from a childhood home in Dallas and another boasting a nostalgic collection of Coca-Cola memorabilia.

As the new Tour Decorating Director Chair, Gilmore is blending tradition with fresh ideas this year. "Mary (Scott) knew my love for Christmas and decorating and had kept asking me for three years to take it over once she retired," Gilmore shared.

Her focus is on decorating Pecan Plantation's facilities, and she appreciates the chance to view others' unique styles on the tour. Gilmore's team is introducing a new patriotic-themed tree in the Brazos Room to honor service members and first responders. "We are truly grateful for their service to this country and its citizens," she added.

They also revamped the Children's Christmas tree and refreshed the Memory Tree, honoring past members of the Woman's Club.

For creating a festive Christmas atmosphere, Gilmore has

decorating recommendations, "Your taste and your family's traditions ... And my funny answer is glitter. If you aren't sweeping up glitter, you may not be doing it right!"

Tickets for the home tour are required and are \$25 per person.

DINNER PAR EXCELLENCE

Ray aims to balance "festive flair with accessibility" using "simple flavor profiles" to suit all palates while still exciting guests. His goal is straightforward: "Good meal = Happy People."

The dinner and dancing opens with a cocktail bar at 6 p.m., followed by an elegant dining experience starting with roasted red pepper bisque topped with garlic, bacon and red pepper crisps.

Next is Ray's award-winning crab cakes over corn succotash and remoulade sauce, a bacon-wrapped, whiskey-molasses-glazed chicken breast served with garlic potatoes and sautéed green beans and finishes with a dessert of orange and cream shortcake paired with a mini beer shot of Licor 43 and heavy cream. Dinner attendees will enjoy cocktails, dancing and raffle entries.

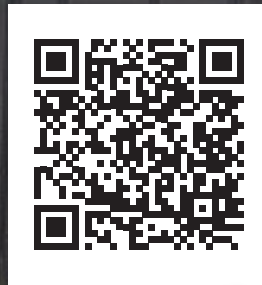
Dinner tickets are required and are \$80 per person.

MERRY MILESTONES

Founded in 1974, the Pecan Plantation Woman's Club has long been a pillar of the community. Around 2009, the club began welcoming not just members but all residents of Pecan Plantation and eventually all of Hood County and

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North Texas to join in the festivities. “We thought, what if we opened it up to more people, and we took over the decorating from the club? The Woman’s Club came up with Santa’s Workshop,” Schoepf recalled. This tradition, which offers donated holiday gifts and unique items, continues to expand, drawing attendees from near and far.

Tickets for the Pecan Plantation Christmas Tour of Homes are available to everyone, not just residents of Pecan Plantation. Individuals from Hood County, Dallas and the DFW area are encouraged to attend. The event has gained popularity beyond the local community, with more people becoming aware of it. Attendees often bring family and friends, contributing to the growing excitement and attendance each year.

All event proceeds support Hood County charities and fund scholarships, focusing recently on students pursuing two-year or technical degrees.

This year, thoughtful tributes include a Patriotic Tree honoring veterans and first responders, a Children’s Tree for donations to local children, and a Memory Tree to remember Woman’s Club members who have passed on.

“Yes, the sparkles and glitter are fun, but we shouldn’t overshadow the true meaning of this time of year,” said Gilmore, noting that simple touches of holiday decor can bring magic to any home.

Tickets for the Tour of Homes, brunch and dinner can be purchased separately through the Woman’s Club website. All proceeds provide scholarships for local students and other community projects.

“Pecan is a Christmas wonderland. We decorate everything, all of our common areas,” said Schoepf, capturing the holiday spirit that permeates Pecan Plantation each December. As Kill said, “If you’re not in the Christmas spirit yet, Santa’s Workshop will get you there.”

For more details on ticketing and event schedules, visit myppwc.com.



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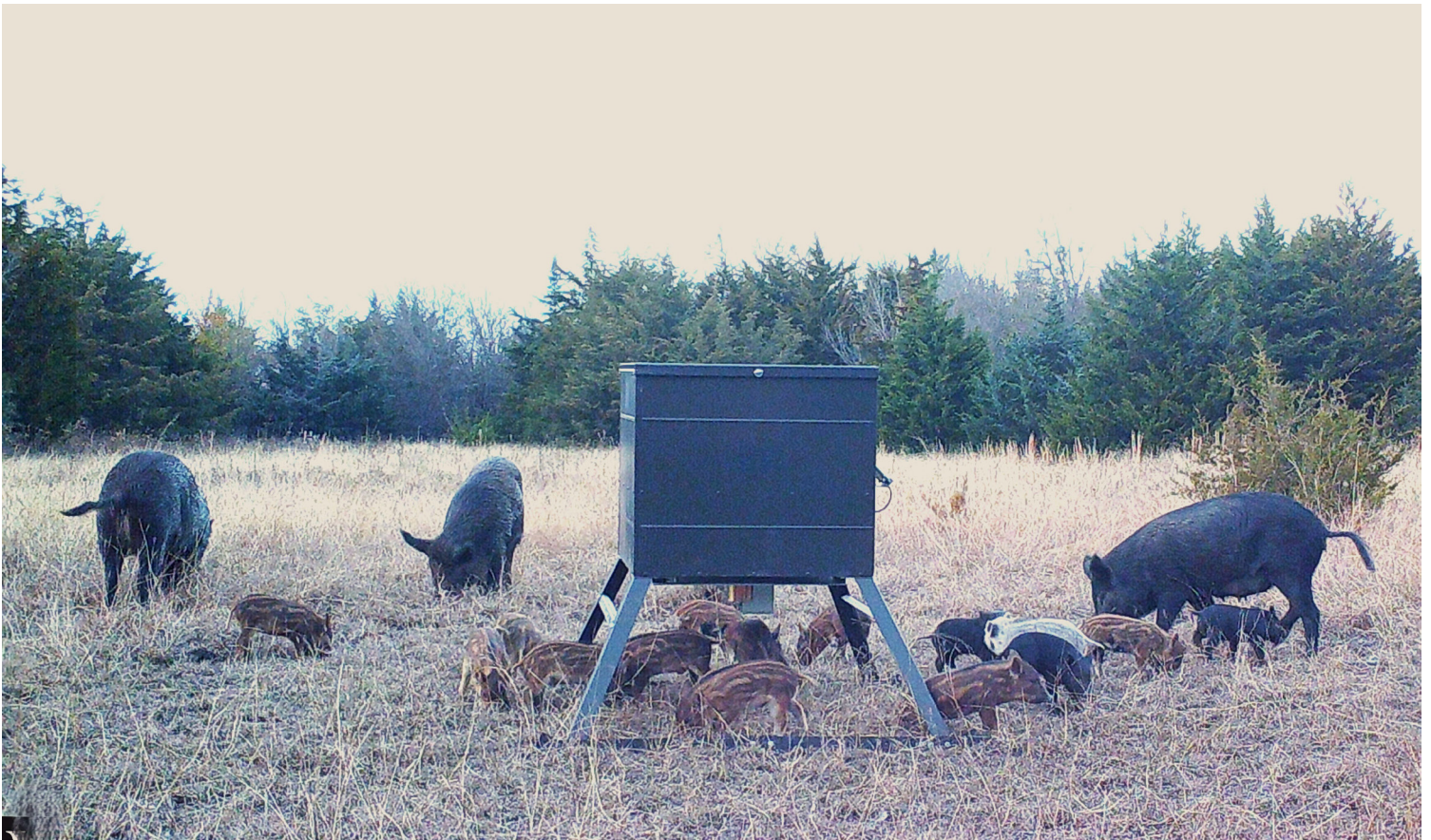


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This image above, taken on a nearby ranch, shows how prolific feral hogs are. Piglets can have babies at six months of age. Feral hogs can be trapped, but it takes strategy. If you see evidence of hog activity, send an email to: hogs@ppoaweb.com.

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WILDLIFE COMMITTEE REPORT

'Tis the season. For hogs, that is

By Bob Lusk



When winter rolls around, so do feral hogs. Folks along the river usually see the first wave, with porcine creatures foraging for food. When they hit your landscaped yard, you'll know it. They'll tear up turf, looking for grubs, crunching pecans, or whatever morsels they can root up.

Did you know that feral hogs live in every county in Texas? Yep, they do. According to Texas A&M's researchers, wild pigs do more than \$500 million in crop damages in Texas yearly. That number doesn't include damage to your yard.

Pecan's Daniel Van Patten reports that hog activity is a little bit down this year compared to years past. He's always on point to hear from any Pecan resident and as long as he can drive a truck with a trailer where the pigs are, he's good at trapping them.

Send him an email at hogs@ppoaweb.com. Give him your contact information and where the pigs are, and he'll get in touch and figure out a plan.

He said, "Typically, we see pigs first along Ravenswood, Bellechase and Bontura along the river. But we've seen serious hog damage in the Air Park and Nutcracker Golf Course over the years. They've even come up on the golf course near the club house and done some damage there."

Be sure to mark your calendars for Dec. 30 for the Dr. Barna Kid's Trout Fishing Tournament. Rainbow trout from Missouri will be stocked and ready for action. The annual event will be held at the pond on #10, starting that morning. Watch email blasts for updates.

The Pecan River Ecology Program is gaining traction, too. Water quality checks are occurring, with trained volunteers collecting samples from seven different sites, gathering data on water chemistry and water quality, and uploading them to the Texas Stream Team site for review from the public as well as TCEQ.

A meeting is planned for January for everyone interested in volunteering to assist the ecology program. Riparian plant cataloging, water quality assessment, and fisheries assessment of the river are the primary goals for 2025, educating folks along the way about how the river works and what it yields.

While there are no plans to trap and harvest deer in 2024, the herd is being observed as new construction continues in the orchard. Their behavior patterns are definitely changing as deer adjust to the new conditions. In parts of Pecan Plantation, there are resident herds, but a significant number migrate back and forth across the river.

A report was made to committee members that someone in a golf cart was chasing Canada geese. Don't chase geese with a golf cart. Heck, don't chase geese on foot, skateboard, bicycle or unicycle. They are federally protected from harassment. Besides, have you ever had a goose turn around and chase you? They have been known to do that.

Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas, and Happiest of the New Year from your wildlife committee.

MARINA HAPPENINGS

The marina committee and all the staff at the marina and pit wishes you and your family a wonderful Christmas season.

SO MUCH TO ENJOY

- The Pecan Pit Bar and Grill has great views of the lake with indoor and outdoor seating. Lunch and dinner are served seven days a week and breakfast is available each weekend. Watch for daily specials such as Taco Tuesday, Wrap Wednesday and Friday Fish Fry.
- Got a crowd to feed this holiday season, the Pecan Pit Bar and Grill can help you fill that hunger.
- Enjoy live music on select weekends
- Boat launch
- Fishing pier
- Bait and other fishing and boating needs

IMPROVEMENTS CONTINUE

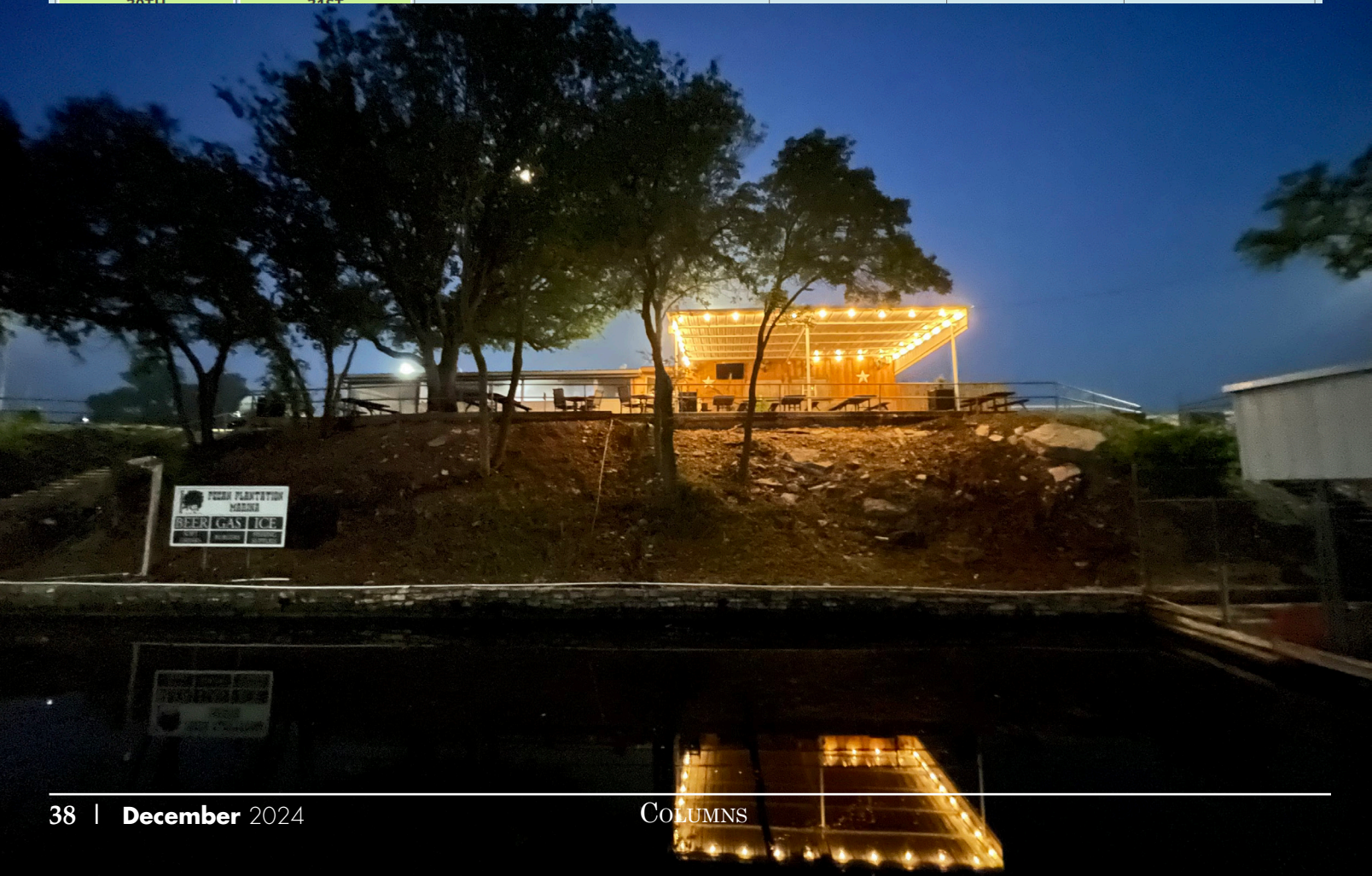
- This place is really turning into a great place to hang out and take family and friends to. If you haven't been down to the marina and pit in a while, now's the time to come check out all the improvements.
- Follow the marina on Facebook for the latest lake, fishing and boating information
- Find us on Facebook: Pecan Plantation Marina on Lake Granbury

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9TH	10TH	11TH	12TH	13TH	14TH	15TH
16TH	17TH	18TH	19TH	20TH	21ST	22ND
23RD	24TH	25TH	26TH	27TH	28TH	29TH
30TH	31ST					



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A FESTIVE GUIDE TO



caroling

Christmas caroling is a joyful tradition that has endured for centuries. Christmas caroling can be traced to the fourth century in Rome. Latin hymns were written to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. Historians believe that even before the emergence of Christianity midwinter songs existed to lift people's spirits through the bleak weather and extended hours of darkness.

Christmas caroling continues to unite communities and spread holiday cheer through song. It is time to inspire a resurgence of caroling by planning to gather friends, family, or neighbors for a caroling session. This guide can help anyone plan a memorable caroling event.

GATHER YOUR GROUP

Begin by assembling a group of singers. No one needs to be an expert singer, as enthusiasm goes a long way. Reach out to friends, family, coworkers, and/or local community members. Try to get a diverse group of people together whose main goal is to have fun.

FIND THE RIGHT TIME AND DATE

Typically evening hours after work or during weekends are when you can reach the greatest number of people. The goal is to enable participants to relax and enjoy the experience.

MAP OUT A CAROLING ROUTE

Carefully identify neighborhoods or locations that are known for being festive. While the organizer may choose to carol around his or her own neighborhood, it may be possible to engage more of the community in other settings. Look at local nursing homes or even community centers as caroling locations. Contact businesses along Main Street to see if caroling in the center of town to coincide with holiday shopping may be a good idea.

COMPILE A LIST OF CLASSICS

Most people will want to hear the carols and other songs they know and love. Make a list of classic Christmas songs that aren't overly complicated and singers will already know how to sing, such as "Jingle Bells," "Deck the Halls," "Frosty the Snowman," and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." If a particularly accomplished singer is in the group, he or she might do a featured solo. Be sure to have printed copies of the lyrics and sheet music for all participants.

ENLIST SOME MUSICIANS

Although caroling is traditionally done a capella, having someone who plays an instrument, like a guitar or violin, can ensure everyone is on the right note and can keep the pace of each song.

PLAN TO REST

Singing can be joyful, but also tiring. Bring along refreshments so the carolers can rest their voices and stop to grab a drink or snack. Tea, coffee and cocoa can warm up participants on chilly days. Perhaps make one of the caroling stops in front of a local coffee shop and pop in after a set.

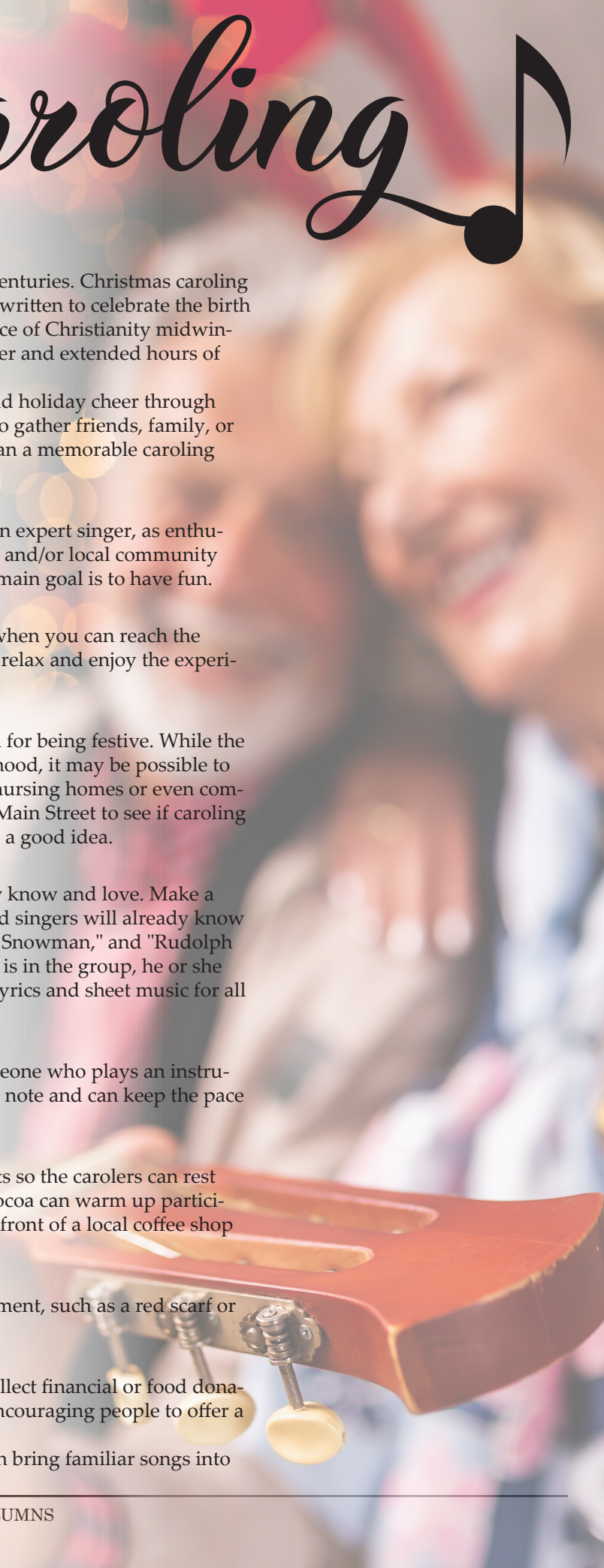
COORDINATE ATTIRE

Although everyone does not have to dress alike, a similar element, such as a red scarf or green mittens, can unite the group.

ADD A CHARITABLE ELEMENT

Consider incorporating a charitable aspect to the caroling. Collect financial or food donations for a local food pantry, or do a toy drive while caroling, encouraging people to offer a wrapped gift in exchange for some beautiful music.

Christmas music often sets the holiday scene, and carolers can bring familiar songs into neighborhoods this time of year.



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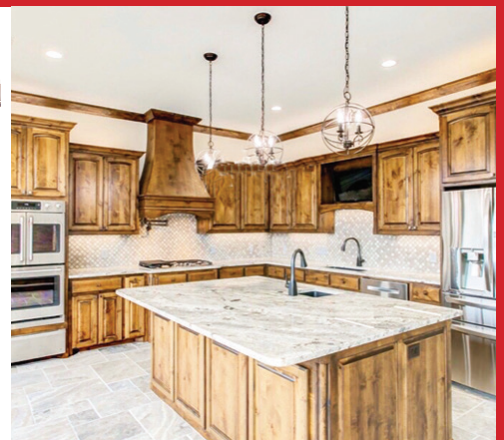
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UNIQUE NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATIONS ACROSS THE GLOBE

It is time to turn the page on one year and usher in another. Each December 31, people all over the world reminisce, celebrate, plan, and party in honor of the changing calendar.

Many are likely familiar with some of the common ways to ring in the new year, which include champagne toasts, fireworks and watching the ball drop in Times Square. Yet, there are many other ways to celebrate this occasion and welcome a new year with hope and good luck. Enjoy these ways to commemorate the start of 2025.

MAKE SOME NOISE

Although fireworks are commonplace on New Year's Eve in various locales around the world, in Thailand it once was traditional to fire guns to frighten off demons. National Thailand reports that it is no longer legal to fire weapons during New Year's Eve festivities, but other noisemakers can simulate the ancient tradition. Thailand also has its own New Year celebration in April called Songkran, a three-day event. It's customary to splash water and shoot colorful water guns, which is another idea for ringing in the new year.

SMASH POMEGRANATES FOR LUCK

Many have heard of smashing grapes to make wine, and the band Smashing Pumpkins has millions of devoted followers across the globe. The comic Gallagher used to smash watermelons on stage. But in Turkey, smashing a pomegranate outside your front door is said to bring good luck. The fruit is seen as a symbol of prosperity, abundance and health.

MAKE SOME GOOD LUCK "HOPPIN' JOHN"

Hoppin' John is a traditional New Year's Day dish from regions of the southern United States. The dish is made with black-eyed peas and pork bacon and is said to bring good luck to those who consume it for the new year, according to the Old Farmers Almanac.

CHOOSE HONEY-DIPPED APPLES

People can take a page from the Jewish New Year tradition, which sees celebrants dipping apples in honey for a sweet new year. Rosh Hashanah takes place in late summer or early fall because it follows the Hebrew lunisolar calendar. However, anyone can apply similar customs to the New Year's celebrations taking place each January 1.

PUT ON SOME POLKA DOTS

In the Philippines, wearing polka-dotted clothing on New Year's Eve is a tradition said to bring good fortune in the new year, according to Philstar Life.

WATCH A SUNRISE

Chances are many revelers are staying up late on New Year's Eve and into the next day, so they'll have ample opportunity to catch the sunrise. In Japan, watching the first sunrise of the new year is called "hatsuhinode," and is a practice thought to bring good fortune.

GRAB SOME CASH

There's a perpetuating superstition that it's better to have some extra money in your wallet to enter the New Year full of financial prosperity. Also, it's best to wipe out any unpaid debts before December 31 disappears; otherwise, the months ahead might not be financially sound.

New Year's traditions have persisted throughout the years and are borne of customs from all over the world.



Wearing polka-dotted clothing on New Year's Eve is a tradition said to bring good fortune in the new year.

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COUNTING DOWN IN TIMES SQUARE

Each New Year's Eve, thousands of revelers gather at the intersection of Seventh Avenue, Broadway and 42nd Street in the heart of New York City's "Time Square" to count down the final moments of the year. Millions more watch the festivities on television. This annual tradition is something people look forward to each December, with many making pilgrimages from far and wide to stand outside for hours just to be at the crossroads of the world. According to the official website of Times Square, people began celebrating New Year's Eve in Times Square in 1904. However, it wasn't until 1907 that the New Year's Eve ball made its first descent from a flagpole atop One Times Square. The first ball was made of iron and wood and featured 100 25-watt light bulbs. Designed and operated by signmaker Jacob Starr, the initial ball weighed 700 pounds and was five feet in diameter. A ball has been lowered every year since 1907, except for in 1942 and 1943 in response to a wartime "dimout" of lights in NYC. Today's Time Square ball is much larger than its ancestor. The modern ball is a geodesic sphere, 12 feet in diameter, weighing 11,875 pounds. It's also covered with 2,688 crystal triangles that have a special sparkling pattern and are bolted to modules containing 32,256 LEDs. The Times Square ball was born out of the tradition of using a ball "dropping" to signal the passage of time. The first ball of this type was used at England's Royal Observatory at Greenwich in 1833, dropping at one o'clock every afternoon so that ship captains could set their chronometers.



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	Actual YTD	Budget	Variance
Operating Revenues	\$ 10,279,652	\$ 10,038,192	\$ 241,460
Cost of Goods Sold	<u>\$ (1,582,149)</u>	<u>\$ (1,439,391)</u>	<u>\$ (142,758)</u>
Gross Operating Profit	\$ 8,697,503	\$ 8,598,801	\$ 98,702
Labor, Taxes & Benefits	\$ (5,342,177)	\$ (5,571,227)	\$ 229,050
Other Operating Expenses	\$ (3,039,554)	\$ (2,999,885)	\$ (39,669)
Net Operating Income/(Loss) Before Depreciation	<u><u>\$ 315,772</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 27,689</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 288,083</u></u>

RESERVE & REPLACEMENT FUND

	Actual YTD	Year End Forecast
Beginning Balance	\$ 3,431,261	\$ 3,431,261
Fund Deposits	\$ 1,078,921	\$ 1,206,347
Fund Expenditures	<u>\$ (2,680,433)</u>	<u>\$ (3,017,635)</u>
Ending Balance	<u><u>\$ 1,829,749</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,619,973</u></u>

NEW CAPITAL FUND

	Actual YTD	Year End Forecast
Beginning Balance	\$ 1,050,920	\$ 1,050,920
Fund Deposits	\$ 588,830	\$ 650,540
Fund Expenditures	<u>\$ (66,853)</u>	<u>\$ (113,099)</u>
Ending Balance	<u><u>\$ 1,572,897</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 1,588,361</u></u>

ROAD & DRAINAGE FUND

	Actual YTD	Year End Forecast
Beginning Balance	\$ 1,364,734	\$ 1,364,734
Fund Deposits	\$ 1,721,381	\$ 1,879,929
Fund Expenditures	<u>\$ (590,180)</u>	<u>\$ (2,761,805)</u>
Ending Balance	<u><u>\$ 2,495,935</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 482,858</u></u>

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RECYCLING

Residents of Pecan Plantation have three collection points for recycling.

Visit the Collection station at 6907 Cottage Court, off Ravenswood near the Stables.

- LAST SATURDAY of each month from 8 a.m. to noon. Bring recyclable items, branches and bulk trash.
- WEDNESDAYS from 4 to 6 p.m. Only branches and recyclables are accepted.
- Never accepted at this location: refrigerators, TVs, tires, paints or other hazardous materials.

Call the Operations office 817-408-3511 for more info.

Pecan Plantation's Tennis Shoppe recycles aluminum cans, with proceeds benefiting Pecan tennis. All cans should be rinsed and free from residue.

The Hood County Citizens Collection Station is located at 244 Bray St. Call 817-579-3288 for hours and information. This location does accept glass, aluminum and metal cans, cardboard, paper and most plastics. Follow the QR code for a detailed list and instructions on what and how to recycle.



Acceptable Recycling Items			
ITEMS TO BE RECYCLED	YES	NO	HOW
METAL	Aluminum, tin food & beverage cans, up to 1 gallon in size; 3 gallon #10 cans such as coffee containers	Any other metal containers including aerosol cans containing hazardous chemicals, paints, cleaning fluids, poisons, no scrap metal	Rinse empty containers & place in cart; can lids ok, in can labels ok.
Newspaper, catalogs, magazine, junk mail, shredded paper	Clean, dry newspaper & inserts, magazines & catalogs, junk mail, computer paper, stationary, bills, shredded paper, envelopes with windows, NOTE: must be less than 2 months old or goes in the trash	All other paper including soiled paper, telephone books, non-paper bags such as plastic or Tyvek, overnight delivery envelopes, bubble wrap, books of any kind, greeting cards, gift wrap & product samples.	Place in brown paper grocery bags or cardboard & place on top of other materials. NO PLASTIC BAGS.
Plastic	Small & wide mouth containers up to 1 gallon marked on the bottom with a "1" or "2".	Containers with other numbers or no numbers; containers larger than three gallon; plastic bags, motor oil & anti-freeze containers...even if marked with a "1" or "2".	Make sure containers have a "1" or "2" on the bottom; remove cap or lid; labels okay; rinse & place in cart.
Boxboard	Cereal, cracker, shoe boxes, shirt boxes, beverage cartons & six-pack cartons	Boxboard containing wax, plastic or foil; or contaminated with food	Remove plastic cereal bag, flatten boxes, place in polly cart
Corrugated Cardboard	Clean cardboard with wavy middle layer of brown paper	Pizza boxes, wax-coated cardboard	Remove packing materials, flatten boxes

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ACROSS

- 1 "March Madness" org.
- 5 Twain's Huckleberry
- 6 Alan of Texas-based "The Big Land"
- 7 ___ Cola
- 8 in 2022, gas in Texas cost more than \$4 ___ gallon
- 9 an emoji is a modern-day ___
- 15 state where TX Buddy Holly died
- 16 similarities between two things
- 19 TXism: "___ of spit and vinegar" (energetic man)
- 21 TX Rodney Crowell wrote song "Til ___ Control Again"
- 22 TXism: "up ___ '___ juice'" (coffee)
- 27 TXism: "___ dog won't hunt"
- 28 Texas has ___ - abortion law
- 29 Texas Tech winning Lady Raiders coach, Sharp (1982-2006)
- 30 TXism: "gave me a ___ dance" (runaround)
- 32 "Traveling Wilbury" Petty, with TX Roy Orbison (init.)
- 33 you can go salt ___ ing from South Padre Island
- 36 underground part of a plant
- 37 Texas actor Tommy ___ Jones

- 38 infantile, childish
- 39 TXism: "between a rock ___ ___ place"
- 41 "One ___ , one Ranger"
- 42 TXism: "fat as a boardinghouse cat"
- 45 Texans Houston and Donaldson
- 46 San Antonio priv. univer.
- 47 TX Buddy Holly's "True Love ___"
- 48 quick light blow

- 49 small piers
- 52 TXism: "about as clear ___ River mud"
- 53 rowing blade
- 54 fish propeller
- 55 med. abbr. for Lou Gehrig's disease

DOWN

- 1 Cowboys and Texans org.
- 2 U.S. spy org.
- 3 novelist Elmer Kelton was born in this Texas county
- 4 "Sizzlin' Summer Arts ___" in Hurst
- 8 rhyming verse
- 9 "___ Ride" with the Houston Rodeo
- 10 365 days (abbr.)
- 11 governors: "___ and Pa" Ferguson

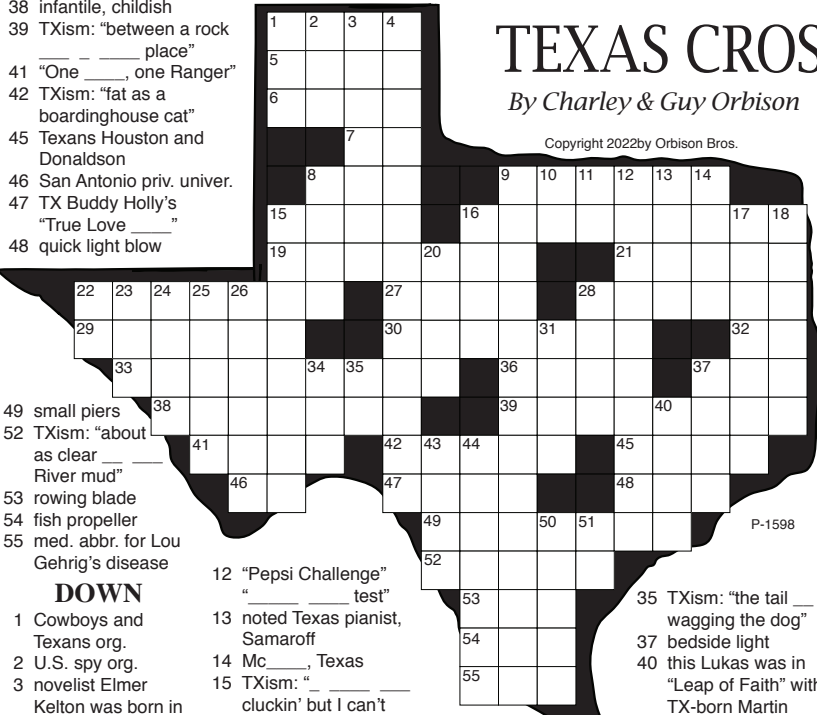
- 12 "Pepsi Challenge" "___ test"
- 13 noted Texas pianist, Samaroff
- 14 Mc ____, Texas
- 15 TXism: "___ cluckin' but I can't find your nest"
- 16 "sounds like a ___"
- 17 messes with Texas
- 18 shot from a concealed location
- 20 something is wrong (2 wds.)
- 22 before noon time
- 23 how Texans might pronounce "no"
- 24 drearily dull

TEXAS CROSSWORD PUZZLE

By Charley & Guy Orbison

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Solution is found on page 50



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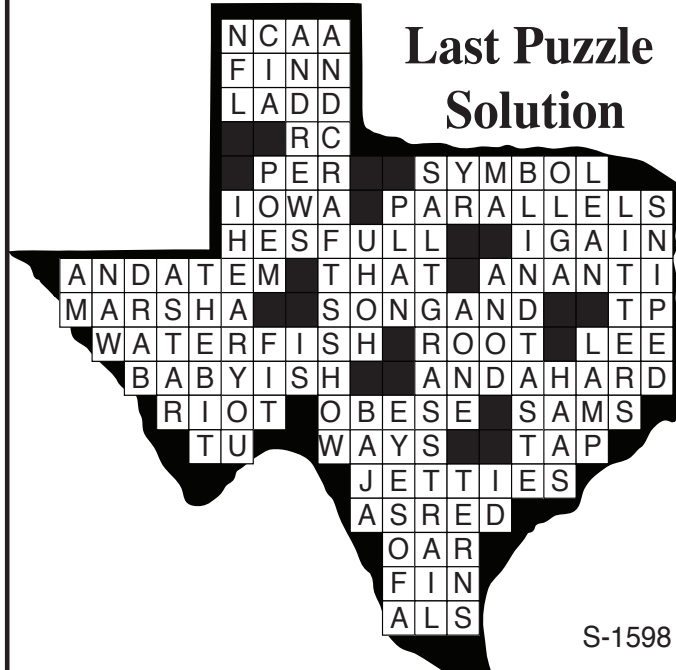
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Puzzle solution for Crossword
Puzzle on page 49.

Last Puzzle Solution



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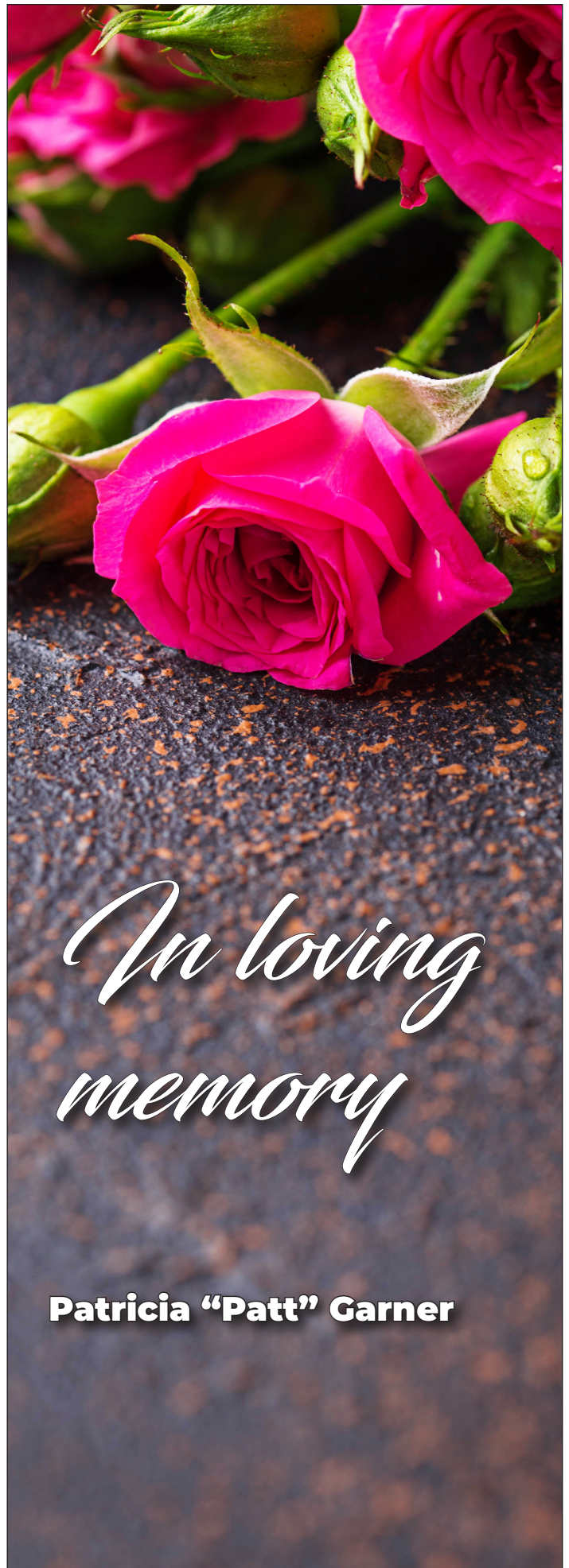
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