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Community leaders give words of thanks

Thursday, November 25, 2004

By **Jeanmarie Mayfield**

In celebration of Thanksgiving, I recently asked local community leaders what they are thankful for this year. Here are some responses.

"I am thankful for the fact that my wife, Wendy, beat breast cancer two years ago and continues to be in good health," said Kevin Herridge, president of the Algiers Historical Society. "So much so that she has been sponsored by friends, neighbors and family members to participate in a marathon walk in Bermuda in January to raise money for the American Stroke Association. Despite her own health problems, she is still willing to help others."

If you would like to help or get more information, contact Herridge at 367-8461 or cockney@bellsouth.net.

"I am thankful for my 10th and 11th grandchildren, Caroline and Charles, who arrived safe and sound," said Assessor Tom Arnold, who added that he has many things for which to be thankful. "No hurricanes for Algiers, but we sure were nervous."

"Woodlands Trail and Park Inc. is thankful for the astute forward thinking of Plaquemines Parish President Benny Rousselle and Mayor Ray Nagin and the myriad bi-partisan leaders who have been long-standing supporters of the regional vision and value of our efforts in creating a legacy for future generations," said Katie Brasted, director of the Woodlands Trail project, which is working to build nature and horse-riding trails in Lower Coast Algiers and Plaquemines Parish. "We are thankful for our growing number of local, regional and national partnership, and community and corporate supporters who recognize the value of connecting the river communities of Orleans and Plaquemines parishes while planning for smart growth and the provision of a unique wilderness recreation opportunity in one of our region's last stands of bottomland hardwoods."

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The Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle will be celebrated at St. Andrew the Apostle Church on Tuesday at the 8:30 a.m. school Mass. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will take place in the church at 7 p.m. The annual parish

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Advent Retreat will be held Dec. 6-8 at 7 p.m. each day. Mike Patin will facilitate the retreat. For information, call the church at 393-2334.

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The Rotary Club of Algiers will meet Wednesday at 12:30 p.m. at the Villas Building at Woldenberg Village, 3701 Behrman Place. For information, call Tina Bergeron at 361-3338 or e-mail her at tinaberg_rotary@bellsouth.net.

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Oussama Arabi will present the program "Understanding Contemporary Islam" on Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Algiers Regional Library. Arabi is a professor and expert on Islam from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon. He is teaching a course at Xavier University on the same topic this semester. For information, call the library at 596-2642.

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The Algiers Economic Development Foundation will host its December Holiday Business Mixer on Wednesday from 5 to 7 p.m. at First Bank and Trust on Gen. de Gaulle Drive. Wally B will provide the entertainment, and Lakewood Golf Club will provide the food. For information, call the AEDF office at 392-9810.

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The Krewe of Choctaw will meet Wednesday at 7 p.m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3121, 475 Monroe St., Gretna. For information, call Robert Heindel at 391-1260 or visit the Web site at www.kreweofchoctaw.com.

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The Algiers Morning Edition Kiwanis Club will not meet today, but will return to its regular schedule Dec. 2 at 7 a.m. at Aurora Country Club.

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The Kiwanis Club of Algiers will not meet today but will return to its regular schedule Dec. 2 at 6:15 p.m. at Lakewood Country Club, 4801 Gen. de Gaulle Drive. The club is looking for new speakers. For information, call secretary Ross H. Lessentine at 393-8565.

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Mark your calendars for the following holiday events:

-- The annual Algiers Point Association Holiday Party will be Dec. 3 from 7 to 10 p.m. at Mardi Gras World. All residents of the community are welcome to attend, but don't forget your 2005 APA membership dues of \$25 per household are due.

There will be music and dancing as well as a silent auction. Donations of art or small furniture are still needed. For information about the auction, call Kristin Palmerat 368-4770.

A main course buffet will be provided by a local caterer, and residents are encouraged to take complimentary dishes by last name: A-L brings a casserole or side dish, M-R brings a dessert, S-Z brings a salad. There will be soft drinks and a cash bar.

-- Boy Scout Troop 64 of St. Andrew the Apostle Parish will hold a pancake breakfast Dec. 5 in the school café. Scouts will be selling tickets. Tickets also can be purchased at the door.

-- St. Andrew the Apostle School Parent Teacher Organization will host a Holiday Home Tour Dec. 10 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The homes are in the Pleasant Ridge and Springwood subdivisions. For ticket information, call development director Jamie Royat 394-4171.

-- The Mary Joseph Residence for the Elderly and the Little Sisters of the Poor will hold Christmas in the Quarter on Dec. 10 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Cabildo, 701 Chartres St. The event features a cocktail reception, choirs, raffle and museum exhibits. City Councilwoman Jacqueline Brechtel Clarkson will be chairwoman of the event, and former Ambassador to the Vatican Lindy Boggs will be the honorary chairwoman.

Tickets are \$75 to \$10,000. For information, call Mary J. Sutton, development director at 394-2200, or e-mail devneworlsp@earthlink.net.

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Jeanmarie Mayfield is an Algiers resident who writes about people and events of community interest. She can be reached at 433-9807. Her fax number is 392-4494 and her e-mail address is JminNO1@cox.net.

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