

Support for methane reduction

Arlington (AP) — Earlier this year, a long-anticipated federal climate rule was finalized requiring oil and gas operators to dramatically reduce how much methane is released in many oil fields, including those in Texas.

The rule, written with input from industry, calls for operators to identify and fix equipment leaking methane and curb the practice of flaring — or burning off excess natural gas. Under the rule, operators will have to monitor emissions, wasteful flaring and leaks from most existing and new well sites.

States are now on a timeline to submit plans to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency detailing how they will implement the rule. Texas regulators are taking input from the public on the state plan until Dec. 31.

Some residents in Arlington, home to about 400 gas wells and 50 drilling sites, want the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality to do more than the bare minimum outlined in the EPA's guidelines and submit a plan before President-elect Donald Trump assumes office.

Trump reversed a methane reduction rule during his first term. Experts say rolling back the current rule would take years, and support from industry for the rule might help keep it in place.

At a public meeting last month in Arlington, Texas environmental regulators heard from more than a dozen residents about the proposed rule.

One woman with severe asthma said "air quality is a life or death issue," and asked state regulators to prioritize the health of citizens over economic interests.

One man pointed out that oil and gas equipment sits close to schools and day care centers and called on regulators for speedy implementation of the rule.

Slow progress on 391 Commission

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Kerr County Commissioners are expected to approve bylaws next week for a 391 Sub-Regional Planning Commission to address safety concerns about the future development of battery energy storage systems in the area.

They also will consider an interlocal agreement with Kendall County, paving the way for cooperation between the counties to activate the commission.

Both Kerr and Kendall counties have been studying the effectiveness of the 391 commission as a possible way to regulate battery energy storage facilities.

On Monday, Kerr Commissioners met in a long, closed session with outside counsel, Chuck Kimbrough, and Kerr County Attorney Heather Stebbins.

Kimbrough has been working on clarifications and wording changes to the bylaws and was expected to submit a final draft on Monday.

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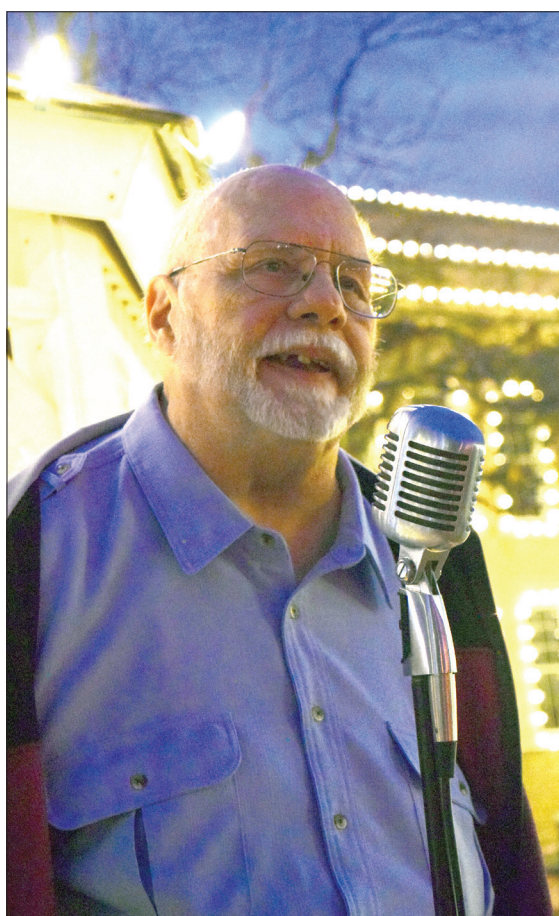
Happy Hanukkah



ABOVE: Attendees listen to a retelling of the story of Hanukkah during the Seventh Annual Hanukkah Celebration hosted by the Jewish Community of the Hill Country on Sunday. Attendees also enjoyed live music, hot beverages and the lighting of the large menorah on the courthouse square.

BELOW: Members of the New Buddy Holly Band perform during the Seventh Annual Hanukkah Celebration hosted by the Jewish Community of the Hill Country on Sunday.

(Photos by Shelby Ligon/photo@dailytimes.com)



ABOVE: Don Burda, president of the Jewish Community of the Hill Country, makes a speech before the menorah lighting ceremony at the Seventh Annual Hanukkah Celebration on Sunday. (Times photo by Olga Durr/photo@dailytimes.com)

For more scenes from local holiday events, see IN FOCUS on Page 12.



1942 Tivy graduate celebrates a century

Collin Furr fought alongside Admiral Chester Nimitz during WWII

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Born in 1924, he has a century of stories in his recollection, with front row experience, from Tivy High School to the Pacific, even alongside Admiral Chester Nimitz.

"It's been an interesting life," Collin Furr said.

He turns 100 on Dec. 17.

Furr continues to be sharp as a tack, full of wit, and overflows with love in his heart for his family and his country.

Asked if he knew that Nimitz and he graduated from the same high school, he quickly replied "yes, but he's much older than me."

Furr has fond memories of

his days at Tivy High School. He said even back then the Tivy motto was TFND: Tivy Fight Never Dies.

Furr graduated from Tivy in May 1942. He recalled going to an assembly to hear that President Franklin Roosevelt had declared war.

With the war going on, Furr knew he wanted to be part of that action, but his mother wanted him to graduate first.

After graduation, Furr joined the Army Signal Corp and worked in communications. After boot camp he was shipped to Australia, setting up communications for General Douglas MacArthur and Nimitz, as they moved forward through the Pacific Islands towards Japan.

Furr told of landing on an island in the Pacific that was "not in a good place." Troops were immediately under fire and that was when he started losing his hearing.

Furr's grandchildren said he did not speak of the war much. However, one grandchild, Crystal Phillips, recalled a story her grandpa told her.

Furr was getting ready to go into a certain area in the Pacific heavily infested with malaria. Soldiers' uniforms were treated against the disease prior to landing but they had to walk from the ship to shore, so Furr removed his uniform to keep the treatment from washing



Collin Furr celebrates his 100th birthday on Tuesday, Dec. 17. (Courtesy photo)

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Weather



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