

Jay Pennington, who owns Pennington Technical Arts in Boerne, Texas, also designed and created a complex Web-based database system - scoutsystem.com - for the sports scouting industry in tracking high school players that is used by universities throughout the U.S., and he developed a content management system website for Kendall County about the history of the county primarily driven through its historic photography on dynamic pages and which the website also serves to encourage tourism to the county - KendallCountyHistory.com.

He also is a journeyman actor who has appeared in dozens of TV shows, music videos and films.

An expert equestrian and motorcyclist, Pennington's rugged good looks and impressive stature - he's 6-foot, 3-inches tall and weighs 205 pounds - have landed him roles as gunslingers, cowboys, Biblical characters, a Gothic Druid monk, blackmailers, bikers and murderers. He's also played a Saxon king for The History Channel's "Vikings" promo.

To find out more on Jay, visit imdb.me/JayPennington.

PENNINGTON TO THE RESCUE

BY DONNA GABLE HATCH



Courtesy Photo

The goal of animal rescue groups and shelters is to find permanent homes for unwanted, abandoned and abused dogs and cats and to reunite pet owners with their lost pets.

Jay Pennington, a veteran software/database developer, has made the task a little easier through a free database that allows animal shelters, rescue groups and the general public to upload photos and descriptions of animals and be cross referenced to increase the odds for a happy ending.

"My idea of networking the lost-found-shelter-adoptable pets of one community into a central website that then takes you to the different organizations' sites has had many wonderful results," said Pennington, who lives in Boerne, in the heart of the Hill Country.

"It has proved to be the best method to get your lost pet back home, but it has also resulted in fewer pets being put down at the pounds, fewer strays and more pets adopted."

There is no fee to use the sites for shelters or the public. His latest website - GalvestonCountyPets.com - was just recently launched.

Caroline Dorsett-Pate, executive director of the Galveston Island Humane Society, said the shelter is working with Pennington to get the many photos and information about adoptable pets uploaded on the new site aimed at the island's animals.

"All efforts to find homes for our shelter pets are important, from reuniting lost pets and families, to securing new, hopefully 'forever' homes," Dorsett-Pate said.

For Pennington, his nonprofit project - Pet Search and Rescue - started 12 years ago, when a distracted air conditioning repairman left the front door of his San Antonio home ajar, and Pennington's kitten, Jazz Cat, got out. Pennington and his wife, Sarah, began a frantic - and confounding - search to find the missing feline.


"I realized that a person frantically looking for their loved lost pet could greatly increase their chances of finding their pet if there was a website for just their community that listed the local pound pets picked up, pets found in their nearby neighborhoods, and local rescue organization's pets," said Pennington, who worked on various software projects at NASA in the mid-1980s - writing software to analyze satellite imagery, designing databases for future space station experiments and writing software for the scientists.

A decade ago, he moved from San Antonio to the Boerne area and created the website BoernePets.com which has pets from the Boerne Shelter ACS, the Kendall County ACS, the lost and found pets of the general public in Boerne and rescue organizations, such as the Wildlife Rescue & Rehab facility in Kendalia and the Hill Country Animal League.

"I wrote the database-driven website 11 years ago, and my nonprofit project has helped many, many pets in need through the years," said Pennington.

To date, Pennington has launched several animal databases, including SApets.com, BoernePets.com, BulverdePets.com, LostPetFound.com, Kerrvillepets.com and now GalvestonCountyPets.com.

Dorsett-Pate said she's looking forward to utilizing the database and finding homes for the critters in the humane society's care.

"We have found that any type of social media, databases or electronic media are helpful. The more we can get the word out, the better it is for our pets," she said. "As always, we emphasize the importance of spaying and neutering pets, along with the need for identification in the way of ID tags to go along with up to date microchips. That will provide the best possible opportunity to return pets to their homes." 

There is no charge to upload a lost or found pet and no fee to use the site GalvestonCountyPets.com or any of its related sites.

- **Lost Pet:** If you have lost your pet and have a picture of it on your computer (JPG format only), click on the "Post your lost pet" link and follow the simple prompts. The information and the photo remain on the site for four weeks. Once the pet is returned home, return to the site and remove the listing by clicking "remove uploaded pet," and follow the prompts.

- **Found Pet:** If you found an animal and want to upload an image of it, type the word "found" in the pet name box along with a detailed description of the dog or cat in the "description of pet" box, and then fill out the rest of the form completely. Also check for your pet on this page in the "found" and "picked up" area.

- **To Search:** First scroll down the homepage of GalvestonCountyPets.com to see if your pet or a pet you want to adopt is listed on this main page. To search in other areas, select the breed of the cat or dog and it will list all found, pound and adoptable pets of that breed from participating rescue organizations and shelters.

Visit GalvestonCountyPets.com or PenningtonTechnicalArts.com

AT A GLANCE

A fundraiser for the Galveston Island Humane Society - dubbed "Can You Dig It?" - is from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday, March 13, at the Galveston Island Convention Center, 5600 Seawall Blvd.

The preview party and silent auction is part of the Annual Galveston Home & Garden Show. Tickets are \$50 per person, and all proceeds from this event will benefit the operations of the Galveston Island Humane Society.

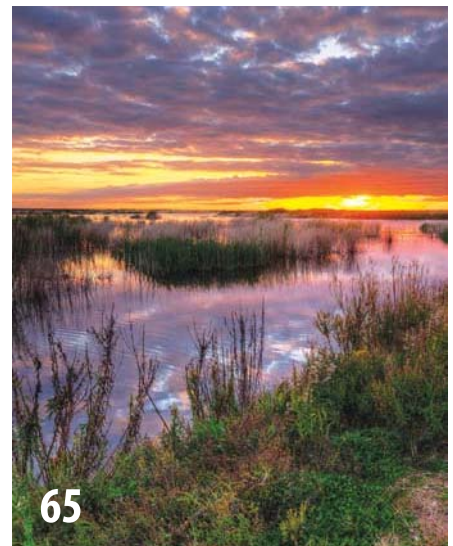
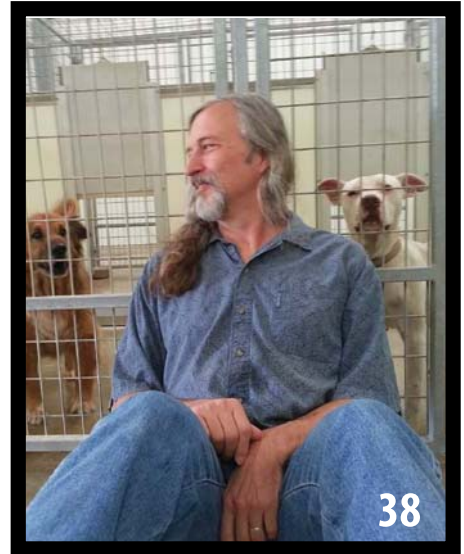
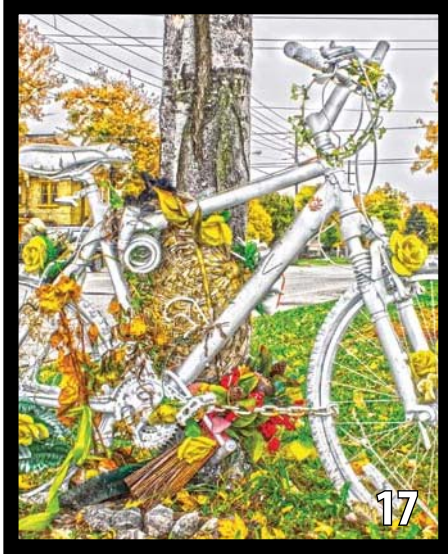
On Saturday, April 25, the 5th Annual "A Bark in the Park," a family fun dog show held from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Kempner Park, 2704 Avenue O, will benefit the Galveston Island Humane Society.

The nonprofit organization is located at 6814 Broadway. For more information about either event, visit galvestonhumane.org or call 409.740.1919.

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EXPLORING YOUR ISLAND PARADISE