

# The Facts

COVERING BRAZORIA COUNTY ★ WHERE TEXAS BEGAN

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Saturday, July 6, 2019 • Vol. 106, No. 128 © 2019 • Published in Clute, Texas

## UPDATES

Updates is a twice-weekly feature to give readers the latest information on stories they have seen in The Facts. If you have a story you would like to see updated, call 979-237-0148 or email news@thefacts.com.

### Fishin' Fiesta carnival should be open today

The carnival attraction of the Fishin' Fiesta is expected to be delayed until today, officials said. The carnival equipment being transported had issues getting to Freeport because of a vehicle breaking down, Freeport Host Lions Club member Ann Johnston said. The carnival should be at the park and open to the public today and Sunday, she said.

The 72nd annual Fishin' Fiesta continues through Sunday at Freeport Municipal Park, 421 Brazosport Blvd. Events include offshore and inshore mini-tournaments, vendors and live music. A fireworks show over the Old Brazos River is scheduled for tonight.

A schedule of events and registration information is available at fishinfiesta.com.

### Alvin man indicted on murder charge

A Brazoria County grand jury indicted Brandon Tyrone Garrett, 34, on a first-degree murder charge in relation to the death of his wife, Jesika Taylor-Sullivan, 34, according to court documents.

The grand jury handed up the indictment Tuesday, two months after Taylor-Sullivan was found dead in her apartment May 1.

Garrett is accused of strangling and drowning his wife days after police responded to a disturbance and determined he choked her, according to court documents. He also faces a third-degree felony family violence indictment from the choking incident, court records show.

Third-degree felonies are punishable by up to 10 years in prison; first-degree felonies are punishable by up to life in prison.

### Dog play place may barely make summer

Rain has once again pushed back the opening of BASF Dog Park in Lake Jackson, which is now slated for late August or early September, City Manager Bill Yenne said.

Planning Commissioner Brenda Colgrove asked about the opening date at their Tuesday meeting, expressing disappointment her "granddog" will likely return to college by then.

The \$680,000 project originally was scheduled to open in May.

The park will have walking paths, shade structures, dog cooling pads, dog drinking fountains and dog washing stations.

## Port rail work gets \$6.5 million grant

By MADDY MCCARTY  
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**FREEPORT** — A \$6.3 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation will help fund the second phase of Port Freeport's Parcel 14 Rail Development project, officials said.

The second phase of the rail project will build 24,000 linear feet of four main tracks adjacent to the recently constructed

21,000 linear feet of track parallel to Highway 36. Phase 2 construction is expected to cost \$10 million, officials said.

The site will become a multi-modal industrial park with warehouse space, distribution facilities, areas for new vehicle processing and storage for the Horizon Terminal Services expansion, a news release announcing the grant states.

"This type of grant is designed to build infrastructure

in places where it can more efficiently move cargo in and out of the ports," Port CEO Phyllis Saathoff said.

"And safely," Port Commission Chairman Shane Pirtle said.

Safety is a large consideration, because as the population grows, there is more need to move commerce, Saathoff said.

"If you can put that on rail, that's a huge win for everyone,"

she said.

There are environmental benefits to taking trucks off of roads and putting them on rail instead, Saathoff said.

These grants went to 45 projects in 29 states and Port Freeport was the only recipient in Texas, the news release states.

The port moved from 26th in total tonnage of ports in the

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KATIE FREZZA/The Facts

Shelter director Brenda Majors shows a large freezer that was donated to the Angleton Animal Control and Adoption Center for extra storage.

## TAIL WIN

Angleton shelter shows remarkable turnaround from a high-kill facility

By COURTNEY BLACKANN  
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ANGLETON

Rooms brightly decorated and filled with cat toys, climbing posts and windows line the once barren walls of the Angleton Animal Control and Adoption Center. The appearance is a 180-degree turn from a year ago, officials said.

The turnaround is as much philosophical as it is visual, though.

High euthanasia rates and underfunding of the animal control department led the city to make the shelter an emphasis, Councilman Cody Vasut.

"Maybe a year ago, I was contacted by some members of one of the area rescues to make some changes to the animal shelter," Vasut said. "At the time it was a high-kill shelter, so the city manager put together a task force who then put together a report to provide recommendations. We took those recommendations, which included adding staff and purchasing kennels, and implemented them into the budget," he said.

For the last six months, the Angleton Police Department and city and shelter staff have worked diligently to transform the shelter into a clean, disease-free facility where the community can adopt

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KATIE FREZZA/The Facts

Three cat rooms were constructed by a community service worker that allows multiple cats to move freely without being caged all day.

### ANGLETON ADOPTIONS

**Where:** The Angleton Animal Services Adoption Center is at 535 S. Anderson St. in Angleton.  
**Hours:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.  
**Adoption form:** www.angleton.tx.us/132/Animal-Control  
**Available animals:** angletonanimalservices.petfinder.com  
**Information:** 979-848-5696 or facebook.com/angletonanimalcontrol



KATIE FREZZA/The Facts

Toto sits in the corner of a kennel Wednesday waiting to be adopted from the Angleton Animal Control and Adoption Center.



ADDISON HOWELL/The Facts

Donna and Jeff Walker wait for the golf cart parade to begin Thursday at the Demi-John Fourth of July Celebration.

## Demi-John celebrates holiday a la cart

By MIRIAM JEWELL  
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**DEMI-JOHN** — Lining up in their golf carts covered in patriotic colors and symbols, the importance of the Fourth of July was exemplified by residents and weekenders in the small community on Bastrop Bayou.

Residents Debbie and Mike Stille, who have participated in the celebration for the past six years, are grateful for the event and the community that allows it to happen, recognizing the impor-

**"This is what America is about, people coming together when they need to come together."**

— Mike Stille, Demi-John resident

tance of celebrating Independence Day each year.

"There is nothing like it, it makes you appreciate your neighbors and that they care and we want to make sure that they celebrate this day," Mike Stille said. "This is what

America is about, people coming together when they need to come together. Now we are honoring those who sacrificed their lives for us, that's why we have to do that."

This golf-cart parade has been an annual tradition since 13 years ago when resident Mark Broaddus organized the first with just three golf-carts. During the first parade, other residents saw the golf carts driving by and began to join in with their own as they headed to the marina, he said.

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