



# The Facts

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COVERING BRAZORIA COUNTY ★ WHERE TEXAS BEGAN

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## — UPDATES —

Updates is a weekly feature to give readers news information on stories they have seen in The Facts. To suggest an Update, call 979-237-0148 or email news@thefacts.com.

### Clute traffic lights damaged by Nicholas

The traffic lights at Plantation Drive and Lazy Lane and Plantation Drive and Main Street have been stop signs or flashing lights since before Hurricane Nicholas hit, City Manager CJ Snipes said.

"The lights along all of the signalized Plantation intersections were severely damaged in the storm," Snipes said. "The city is set to receive an engineering report from our contractor Oct. 5 for their findings on the extent of the damage and what a fix might look like."

The City of Clute included about \$150,000 in the new budget to repair the signals prior to the storm.

The city has also filed an insurance claim to assist in covering additional costs that might be associated with the required repairs.

"Once we have an idea of the extent of the damage and a plan to remediate that damage, we will issue a timeline for repair," Snipes said.

### Aggravated robbery trial to start this month

Constantine Thomas is scheduled to stand trial this month for first-degree felony aggravated robbery, third-degree felony evading arrest and third-degree felony escape, according to online records.

An Angleton woman was severely injured in the robbery which led to a high-speed car chase and arrest in January 2020, police said.

Thomas is accused of beating the woman and stealing her car. After his arrest, Thomas kicked out the window of a patrol car and two bystanders helped subdue him until officers regained custody, according to a news release.

The trial has been delayed four times. Online records show Thomas has remained in the Brazoria County jail since Jan. 13, 2020 in lieu of bonds totaling \$320,000, including a \$75,000 bond for an unrelated aggravated sexual assault charge.

### NOAA receives another round of project funding

NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Sciences was recently awarded \$1.7 million which is part of the \$5.9 million they are anticipating on receiving within the next four or five years.

The money is for three research projects to investigate species habitats usage in and around Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, Florida Keys and the Stellwagen Bank National Marine Sanctuary according to a news release by NOAA.

"Within Flower Garden Banks National Marine Sanctuary, tagging, tracking, and bioacoustics will be used to investigate migration ecology and habitat requirement of reef-associated fishes, including snapper, grouper, parrotfish, hammerhead sharks, wahoo, and invasive lionfish," according to the news release. "This will allow us to assess how they use this network of banks and reefs and improve effective protection and management of critical habitats and fisheries."

## Brazoria County Fair returns amid pandemic

By RAVEN WUEBKER  
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ANGLETON — The Brazoria County Fair will be back to full action for the first time since 2019, President Brad DeLeon said.

"I think we're going to have a really good turnout, a lot of people," DeLeon said. "I think a lot of people are to a point where they're ready to get out and do stuff. Our neighbors in Fort Bend County just had their fair recently

and had a good outcome and we're hoping for the same thing."

This year's fair opens at 2 p.m. Friday and will last through midnight Oct. 23 at the Brazoria County Fairgrounds, 901 S. Downing St.

With the fair getting back into the swing of things, officials are looking at the 2019 format to help with planning for this year.

"After not being able to have a full fair last year

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Facts file photo  
**Horseback riders ride down Highway 35 during the Brazoria County Fair parade in Angleton in 2019. This year the fair will fully return after COVID-19 affected last year's event.**



JEREMY HILL/The Facts

Clute Intermediate students and teacher Kara Edwards lend a helping hand stocking, sorting, and packing the goods at the Cougar Mart at Clute Intermediate.

## CARING COUGARS

Clute Intermediate opens shop to help students get the things they need to succeed

By RAVEN WUEBKER  
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CLUTE

The ribbon was cut and the door swung open Tuesday as Cougar Mart in Clute Intermediate was officially up for business.

The school partnered with Communities in Schools and Brazosport Cares to provide an in-school pantry for children in need.

"We have a need for our kids to have access to supplies, snacks, and things like that so this was a good opportunity to actually house it here on campus," Principal Tara Fulton said. "If a student

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Contributed Photo

Present at Tuesday's grand opening of the Cougar Mart at Clute Intermediate School was, from left to right, Allyson Angel of Communities in Schools, Tara Fulton the principal of Clute Intermediate, Executive Director Christy Frey and Powerpacks Coordinator Mary Liz Coulter of Brazosport Cares.

## Tax rate staying the same

Brazoria council finalizes last-minute change

By RAVEN WUEBKER  
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BRAZORIA — After a last-minute tax rate change, the city council made an amendment to the adopted rate at a meeting Tuesday.

The original proposed tax rate was 72.7 cents per \$100 of appraised value but after a public hearing Sep. 29, the council had decided to keep the tax rate at 68.0 cents per \$100 of appraised value.

The no new revenue rate is 66.4 cents per \$100 of the appraised value and the voter approval rate is 72.7 cents per \$100 per taxable value, the highest council could go without requiring voters to approve the rate in a special election.

With change happening suddenly, the council had to make an amendment to the debt service rate and the maintenance and operations rate to fit the new tax rate.

"The shortest explanation is that the tax rate per hundred is the same as we voted on last time," City Manager Mike Collard said. "The difference is, the split difference is between the amount that goes towards debt versus the amount that goes towards (maintenance) and (operations) was different."

Under the change, 20 cents will go toward the city's debt service fund and 47.9 cents will be put toward maintenance and operations.

"When we were doing

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## Temporary food permits will soon have lower costs

By DAKOTA PERRY  
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ANGLETON — The Brazoria County Commissioners' Court proclaimed that the entire month of October would be deemed as Breast Cancer Awareness Month and presented certificates of the proclamation to Breast Cancer survivors.

In other business

during Tuesday's meeting, commissioners had a public hearing regarding amending of the Brazoria County Environmental Health Department regulations regarding permitting of retail food stores and food service establishments.

"This amendment is to add a farmers market permit to our food processing," said Jodie Vice, director of the

county's environmental health department. "Generally, the food vendors at an event, they would pull a temporary permit that is good for that one event and valid for 14 days and is \$40."

The permit is for only food products that are temperature-controlled and there is also a yearly permit for \$100, so farmers don't have to constantly pay \$40 for a

permit.

"We are Brazoria County and there are other cities we have local agreements with," Vice said. "If the city has their own local health department, they would get their permit from them."

Citizen Elizabeth Day spoke before the court about her opinion on the prices of the food permits.

"I understand the

need for protecting the public," Day said. "I am not a farmer; I garden. As a gardener, that is a steep price for just selling your goods. I would like to see a more reasonable rate."

Day went on to explain that at this rate, it would be difficult for vendors to cover the cost of their produce due to the price of the permits. Day also

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