

The Facts

COVERING BRAZORIA COUNTY ★ WHERE TEXAS BEGAN

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Ag exemption possible for pending development

By WES WOLFE
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ANGLETON — Whether people can conduct agricultural operations on the under-construction Riverwood Ranch development will be up for discussion with the Angleton City Council after a vote by the city planning and zoning commission.

The purpose of the request is so

the development can receive an agricultural exemption on county property taxes.

Commission Chairman Bill Garwood asked City Planner Walter Reeves if the categorization would apply to what's presently undeveloped on the land or to the entire parcel.

"It will be, right now, on the entirety of the property, because a final plat for the first phase has

not yet been recorded," Reeves said. "So, it will be on the entirety of that property, and when that first phase is recorded, they're going to have to deal with, how do you have their lots — how do you get an ag exemption when the property ownership is going to change?"

The commission also moved along the Heritage Oaks Section 7 final replat, which consists of

34 lots and two reserve lots on 27.122 acres zoned for single-family residential use. The lots would have 100-foot width minimums and be 150 to 175 feet deep, and the development would have 25 acres of lakes and 10 acres of parks. Home prices are estimated to be in the upper \$300,000s to \$700,000.

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UTMB waiting for more vaccine

Patience urges as demand far exceeds supply

By NICK IRENE
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ANGLETON — UTMB Health is out of COVID-19 vaccines until at least Wednesday, according to a hospital news release.

Spokeswoman Tonya Visor did not know when the next shipment would reach the Angleton-Danbury campus but said she should know "later this week."

Residents who have had their first dose will be contacted to schedule an appointment for their second round, according to the notice.

OUR VIEW

Give health-care workers deadline to get vaccine.

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St. Luke's Health Brazosport also does not take walk-in appointments and urges residents to be patient and stay updated on the hospital's website, spokeswoman Vanessa Astros said in a statement.

"People interested in obtaining the vaccine once available to the general public can fill out a form on our website and a member of our team will contact them once the vaccine is available to the general public," Astros said in a statement.

The county health department also provided an update stating the agency is booked for all its current supply of vaccinations and to check back for additional news.

Monday's 140 reported COVID-19 cases was the lowest report since Dec. 27 but helped the county pass the 23,000 milestone, according to county data.

Pearland led Monday's count with 37 residents testing positive, followed by 16 Angleton residents and 15 from Alvin. Nine from Manvel, five each from Lake Jackson and Freeport, three each from Clute, Brazoria and West Columbia, two each from Iowa Colony, Liverpool and Holiday Lakes and a

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FRESH START

Vasut ready for his first term in Texas Legislature

By WES WOLFE
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AUSTIN — The opening of a legislative session, especially for new lawmakers, is known to be not unlike the first day of school. Today is that first day for state Rep. Cody Vasut, R-Angleton. He said he believes two things are primary in effectively representing a district.

"First, I think it's critical to build relationships," Vasut said. "As a freshman, you're coming into a new place, you don't know that many people. That includes representatives, that includes senators, that includes executive agency officials, and even just staff. Getting to know people, building a working relationship with everybody. That's No. 1. And, I think No. 2 is probably true for every representative — you represent your district. I want to defend the policies and programs that have helped the district, and pursue good, conservative legislation that will further help the district."

"I can do that as a freshman, even in my first term. Everybody can introduce bills, everybody can serve on a committee. You've got the same vote as everyone else, but you do those two things, and I think you'll be successful."

Vasut said he has several bills done and ready to file, but he's still putting the finishing touches on his abortion ban legislation. Once that's complete this week, he'll file it and his other legislation.

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Contributed photo

State Rep. Cody Vasut, R-Angleton, sits in his new office Monday in the State Capitol in Austin. The first-term legislator will be sworn in today when the new session of the Texas Legislature begins.

Legislators to have \$1 billion less to spend

By MITCHELL FERMAN
The Texas Tribune



MIGUEL GUTIERREZ JR./Texas Tribune file photo

As lawmakers think about short-term solutions to the economic calamity related to the coronavirus, Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar wrote over the weekend that they must also think about long-term planning to eliminate "burdens on future generations."

AUSTIN — Texas lawmakers will enter the legislative session this week with an estimated \$112.5 billion available to allocate for general purpose spending in the next two-year state budget, a number that's down slightly from the current budget but is significantly higher than what was estimated this summer when the coronavirus began to devastate the economy.

Texas Comptroller Glenn Hegar announced that number Monday in his biennial revenue estimate, which sets the amount lawmakers can commit to spending when they write a new budget this year. But he acknowledged that Texas' economic future remains "clouded in uncertainty" and that numbers could change in the coming months.

Hegar also announced a nearly

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MLK celebration offers unifying message, organizers say

By NICK IRENE
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FREEPORT — The Martin Luther King Celebration Committee aspires to honor the life and work of the civil rights leader by uniting as one community during tough times.

MLKCC President Dorothy Thomas emphasizes Saturday's virtual celebration and Monday's drive-thru parade will serve as times of recognition and commemoration for one of the

most influential civil rights leaders in American history.

The committee promotes this year's unifying theme of "Stronger Together," which speaks to Thomas louder after protesters breached the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

"The message is 'Stronger Together' and in lieu of the events



HILL

that happened (Wednesday), our country is hurting," Thomas said. "We have to find a way to try and look at our differences and find a way to work together and live together. We realize we are all different, but we have to come together for this nation. I just hope that we come into unity; we will make the world a better place for ourselves and our children."

The online celebration begins with a pre-show at 6:30 p.m. Saturday followed by the

program at 7 p.m. The event is viewable through the MLKCC Facebook page or MLKCC.org, Thomas said.

Sweeny ISD Superintendent Tory Hill will serve as the keynote speaker alongside Thomas and the Rev. Michael Riddick of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, according to the event flyer.

Hill is honored for the chance to reflect and pass down King's message during trying times, the superintendent said.

"I'm truly humbled to speak on such an honorable occasion," Hill said. "They do a phenomenal job highlighting Dr. King's legacy. I think considering the times we are in, it's important to honor a leader who fought for equality, justice and peace. There is a lot that could be learned from him."

Musical performances will be provided by Choir Chairmen Quinten Simon and soloist

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