



READERS' PHOTOS OF VETERANS
PAGE 1C

TDECU PLANS BIG LJ PROJECT
PAGE 8A



HOLIDAY EVENTS, RECIPES
INSIDE



Segment of port deepening complete

By **RAVEN WUEBKER**
raven.wuebker@thefacts.com

FREERPORT — Port Freeport's Harbor Channel Improvement Project has reached its next step in the process.

Great Lakes Dredge & Dock Corp. completed the dredging of Reach 3, the first part of the almost \$300 million project to widen and deepen the harbor channel, said Phyllis Saathoff, executive director and CEO of Port Freeport.

The project is broken into four parts, each designating different parts of the channel. Reach 3 is the segment adjacent to the Port's Velasco Container Terminal.

"This segment of the channel was deepened to 51 feet from 46 feet ... to accommodate larger, deeper-draft vessels in service today," Saathoff said.

The overall project also includes enhancements to the upper turning basin, Saathoff said.

"The completion of Reach 3 is

a great accomplishment for Port Freeport and the Freeport Harbor Channel Improvement Project," Port Commission Chairman John Hoss said in a news release. "A deeper channel will enable Port Freeport to serve a wider range of global vessels and support the region's growing economy."

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on Oct. 27 signed the contract for the second phase, which is for the

■ See **PORT**, Page 7A



Contributed photo

The area around the container terminal has been dredged to 51 feet, completing the first part of the overall Freeport Harbor Channel Improvement Project.

All are welcome to feasts

Free holiday meals available in Freeport, Oyster Creek

By **RAVEN WUEBKER**
raven.wuebker@thefacts.com

The holiday meals being offered in Freeport and Oyster Creek will provide both feast and fellowship this year.

After not being able to host the event inside last year because of COVID-19 precautions, the Freeport Superfeast will be back inside Thursday, allowing people to enjoy conversation along with their meals in the warmth of RivePlace at Freeport Municipal Park, 733 Mystery Harbor Drive.

The Freedom House church, which organizes the community meal, is expecting more than 2,000 people to attend from all over Brazoria County. Meals will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"We did not have as big a turnout last year," volunteer Janet Jamme said. "This year we anticipate between 2,000 and 2,500 people coming to either eat either on-site or get to-go plates."

Because of the COVID measures in place last year, most people took advantage of the drive-thru

■ See **FEASTS**, 2A



FEASTTIMES TODAY

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Oyster Creek Community Center, 134 Linda Lane, Oyster Creek. Free; public welcome. Includes turkey, ham, traditional sides, beverage and dessert. Presented by city, Dollar General and XYZ Food Mart. Call 979-233-8481.

THURSDAY

10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Freeport River Place, 733 Mystery Harbor Drive, Freeport. Free and open to the community. Hosted by The Freedom House. Call 979-871-9547.



JEREMY HILL/The Facts

Vicky Harris, left, makes a donation Tuesday at the Salvation Army red kettle at Brazos Mall in Lake Jackson. Harris said she she tries to donate to the Salvation Army every time she sees them.

WITH THESE RINGS

Red kettle drive will help refurbish local Salvation Army shelter

By **DAKOTA PERRY**
dakota.perry@thefacts.com

LAKE JACKSON

Managers of the Hobby Lobby store in Lake Jackson always have been considerate to the Salvation Army bell-ringers stationed near their doorway, long-time volunteer Susan Buell said.

"They have always worked very closely with us, and when it rains or it's extremely cold, they make arrangements for us to bring the kettles and to ring inside the store," Buell said.

This year's red kettle campaign will help The Salvation Army do the same

■ See **KETTLE**, Page 3A



JEREMY HILL/The Facts

Doug Parker, a volunteer for The Salvation Army, waves to shoppers as the arrive Tuesday to the Walmart in Lake Jackson.

EDC board picks new leadership

Cooperation the theme for officers as Freeport panel moves forward

By **RAVEN WUEBKER**
raven.wuebker@thefacts.com

FREERPORT — The Freeport Economic Development Corp. board still has two fewer members, but it does have new officers.

The board voted Monday to name Mingo Marquez its new president, David McGinty as its secretary and Councilman Jeff Pena its treasurer. Marquez replaces former president Ed Garcia, whose removal from the board Pena orchestrated at the Nov. 1 council meeting.

Former board member Nicole Mireles also was ousted at Pena's behest during that meeting.

"I know there is a lot of work ahead of me," Marquez said. "I'm looking forward to bringing the community together as well as the EDC board members together to do some good things for Freeport."

The EDC has a lot of things in the works, Marquez said, and he wants to put the focus on those projects.

"I look forward to trying to make that happen," Marquez said. "I'm happy they — the board — thought I was up for the task. It's going to take a team and I believe I have their support."

Marquez plans to take a different approach to business recruitment, he said.

"What I'm going to do differently is pretty much empower

■ See **EDC**, Page 7A



PENA

OLQP aces math competition

Students put up strong numbers in online program

By **JOE EDWARDS**
joe.edwards@thefacts.com

RICHWOOD — Even those not good at math could see Our Lady Queen of Peace students put up big numbers during the national Sumdog competition.

Sumdog is a free online math program promoting healthy competition among students and schools nationwide. The online competi-

tion consists of up to 1,000 questions presented as math games and quizzes.

Forty-six Our Lady Queen of Peace students completed the entire 1,000 questions, and one-fifth of them answered at least 92 percent of the questions correctly. Among 4,550 classes and 26,000 student competitors, OLQP participants in second, third and fourth grades each finished ranked in the Top 10 nationwide, and first and fifth grade each ranked within the top 15 in Texas.

Our Lady Queen of Peace last

■ See **MATH**, Page 2A



JEREMY HILL/The Facts

Students of Our Lady Queen of Peace prepare for the day's studies in teacher Monica Donovan's classroom Friday.

\$20 GIFT CARD TO KROGER

HOLIDAY GROCERY SAVINGS

Get a \$20 Kroger gift card when you start or renew a 1-year subscription to The Facts. Call (979) 265-2999 or (979) 237-0100 or visit thefacts.com/subscribe

GET IN TOUCH

Main office **979-237-0100**
Place a classified **979-265-7401**
Display advertising **979-237-0130**
Circulation **979-265-2999**
On the Web **www.thefacts.com**

