

# The Facts

COVERING BRAZORIA COUNTY ★ W TEXAS BEGAN

\$1

## NO 'I' IN MANVEL

MAYA HUGHLEY'S VALEDICTORY SPEECH

COMMUNITY, 4A



## DISTRICT 26-2A'S MOST VALUABLE

LADYCAT HILLIER'S HARD WORK PAYS OFF DARTWAN A COWBOY

TODAY IN SPORTS, 1B



BE HEARD DON'T MISS CHANCE TO PROVIDE INPUT

OUR VIEWPOINT, 6A

## A DAY OF GOOD DEEDS

Local business gives 5 employees \$1,000 and sends them out to help others

By KELLIE MARRIOTT  
kellie.marriott@thefacts.com

ALVIN — Kevin Hudson teared up when recalling how much good was accomplished with a few people and a small amount of money.

"Even this far along, I've told this story two or three times, I keep tearing up," Hudson said. "I'm just amazed at the work of just a few people and a limited amount of time."

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On Thursday, five employees of Ascend Performance Materials' Chocolate Bayou facility, south of Alvin, were called into the boss' office, handed \$1,000 and told to go and do good for a day.

"To celebrate the (company's) five-year anniversary, we're doing what we call a day of doing good," said Kevin Beagley, Ascend's director of communications. "We put five people together, kept it a secret and just told them

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AMANDA CAIN/The Facts

Austin Taft, 6, who has autism, lets Monty sip water from his hand as part of his "follow the leader" exercise Saturday at Horses For Life in Angleton.

## HEALING HORSES



AMANDA CAIN/The Facts

Horse professional Kathy Gambino and mental health professional Sherri Marlin watch as Allison Sokoloski helps Dixie play with her ball Saturday at Horses For Life in Angleton.

## Equine program adds mental health services

By KELLIE MARRIOTT  
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ANGLETON

After seeing the benefits of a program that uses horses as part of physical therapy, Alice Sokoloski cannot wait to bring her 12-year-old daughter back to Horses for Life for its new mental health services.

Allison Sokoloski is diagnosed with autonomic dysfunction, a disorder that affects the functioning of the autonomic nervous system, and attention deficit disorder, her mother said.

Kathy Gambino, founder of Horses for Life, has created therapeutic programs that help children with special needs.

"The bigger part is she's getting older

"The goal is to have a happy horse and a happy kid."

—Kathy Gambino, Horses for Life founder

■ See HORSES, Page 3A

## Runoff voting begins

Final decision on local seats in voters' hands

By SHANNON DAUGHTRY  
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Lake Jackson, Oyster Creek and Alvin residents have seven more chances to help settle races left undecided during last month's municipal elections.

Council seats in those two Brazosport cities remain open after no candidate in the May 10 election received more than 50 percent of the votes. In Lake Jackson's case, it was because a four-person race for Position 4 split the votes almost equally. In Oyster Creek, it was because the race ended in a tie.

Alvin voters still have the mayor's race to decide, with two longtime city officials seeking the spot, former city



### WHERE TO VOTE

**LAKE JACKSON**  
Lake Jackson Civic Center, 333 E. Highway 332

**OYSTER CREEK**  
City Hall, 3210 FM 523

**ALVIN**  
Alvin Library, 105 S. Gordon

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## Water park proposal resurfaces

By ANDY PACKARD  
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BRAZORIA — City officials have decided to resurrect the idea of building a water park in town.

Mayor Ken Corley added a discussion with Bosc Inc. on a potential bond issue for a water park to the agenda for tonight's regular council meeting. The discussion will rekindle a proposal that has been dormant for more than a year.



CORLEY

"I've called for this at the meeting to look into all our options on the possibility of putting in a waterpark," Corley said.

The mayor said he wants to gather as much information

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## NATURAL SOLUTION

Dow, Nature Conservancy want to use trees, reforested land to clean industrial air pollution

By RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI  
Associated Press

FREEMONT — Before Houston and its suburbs were built, a dense forest naturally purified the coastal air along a stretch of the Texas Gulf Coast that grew thick with pecan, ash, live oak and hackberry trees.

It was the kind of pristine woodland that was mostly

wiped out by settlers in their rush to clear land and build communities. Now one of the nation's largest chemical companies and one of its oldest conservation groups have forged an unlikely partnership that seeks to recreate some of that forest to curb pollution.

The plan drafted by Dow Chemical and the Nature Conservancy is only in its

infancy and faces many hurdles. But it envisions a day when expensive machines used to capture industrial pollutants might be at least partially replaced by restoring some of the groves of native trees that once filled the land.

"It looks very promising at the early stage of the

■ See DOW, Page 2A



PAT SULLIVAN/Associated Press

## BARKING OUT ORDERS

BRAZOSWOOD GRAD HAS 4-LEGGED PARTNER IN MARINES

COMING WEDNESDAY IN THE FACTS



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