

The Facts

COVERING BRAZORIA COUNTY ★ WHERE TEXAS BEGAN

\$2

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House fire shuts down part of Highway 36

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

WEST COLUMBIA — As resident Tanya Hawkins took out the trash Thursday morning, she heard what she thought might be gunshots. It isn't unusual, she said, so she wasn't alarmed.

It turned out to be something. "I had come out and was taking out the trash, and I heard what I thought was a gunshot," Hawkins said. "When I came in I was going to call the police, and when I looked out my kitchen window, I could see the flames. At that point, I called 911."

After seeing the flames at the home across the road at about 7:45 a.m., Hawkins figured

out what she had mistaken for gunfire, she said.

"We heard glass breaking, and we knew it was the house because you could hear different pops and stuff," Hawkins said.

Within 10 minutes, the flames were above the tree line, Hawkins said.

When police arrived at the fire in the 1600 block of South Columbia Drive off of Highway 36, fire people were standing outside waiting on first responders, West Columbia Police Lt. Ashley Baker said.

"When we got here, the house was fully engulfed," Baker said. "There were a few people outside



KEN CONKLE/ Special to The Facts

Charred furniture and building remains lie smoldering following a fire Thursday at the Weems Mansion in West Columbia.

■ See **FIRE**, Page 5A

County to assess jail needs

Increasing inmate population raises prospect of expansion

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

ANGLETON — As the county detention center nears capacity and the number of inmates continues to rise, Brazoria County Commissioners Court will commission a needs assessment to possibly extend the facility.

From Oct. 1, 2021, to Aug. 1, the prisoner count has risen from 719 to 993 and is now pushing 1,000, County Judge Matt Sebesta said. At a cost of \$51 a day to house and feed an inmate, the added jail population will cost the county an extra \$5.16 million a year, he said.

"This is for a needs assessment to determine and see where we're at at the center," Sebesta said. "We have a lot of folks — unlike our neighbors to the north that play

■ See **JAIL**, Page 5A

WORTHY SPOTLIGHT



JEREMY HILL/The Facts

This advertisement for the play "Charley's Aunt" was illustrated by artist Don Hutson and is on display as part of the Lake Jackson Historical Museum's new feature on the art of Hutson on Wednesday.

Temporary exhibits at LJ museum recognize Hispanic achievers, popular local artist

By **ANDREW TINEO**
andrew.tineo@thefacts.com

LAKE JACKSON

Two arrangements of colorful displays one showcasing Hispanic pride and the other bright watercolors of a local artist are there to welcome visitors for a short time at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum.

In the upstairs area of the museum, four Hispanic heroes connected to Brazoria County are recognized for their work.

Running through mid-October, it is one of two temporary exhibits in the two story building honoring people and events of the area's past.

Katelyn Landry, the museum's program and education coordinator, wanted to keep

■ See **EXHIBITS**, Page 4A



JEREMY HILL/The Facts

Master Gunnery Sergeant Teresa Arroyo of Freeport is one of the individuals recognized as a "Hometown Hero" in the Lake Jackson Historical Museum's new Hispanic heritage display on Thursday.

Pot grow operation found in Freeport

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

FREEPORT — About \$500,000 worth of narcotics were discovered in a detached building behind a Freeport man's house, authorities said.

The Brazoria County Narcotics Task Force, along with the Freeport/Lake Jackson SWAT team, found what they described as a highly sophisticated hydroponic marijuana grow operation Tuesday at a property in the 900 block of CR 223, Brazoria County Sheriff's Lt. Joel Lares said.

Investigators arrested Francisco Gararrda Garcia, 39, on a charge of possession

■ See **GROW**, Page 2A

Freeport Historical Museum looks to raise spirits

"Not only is 'Haunted Tales of the Texas Coast' a physical exhibit, it's also a video series, so every year we try to release a new episode or two."

— Wade Dillon, museum curator

'Haunted Tales' returns for another hair-raising visitation

By **KENT HOLLE**
kent.holle@thefacts.com

FREEPORT — A local haunt is gravely serious about its patrons enjoying themselves this fall. You could say that they give a sheet about serving good boos.

Brazoria County has many of its own purportedly haunted spots and plenty of ghost stories to go around. To celebrate the creepy folklore of the area, the Freeport Historical Museum will put on

SEE THE EXHIBIT

"Haunted Tales of the Texas Coast" can be seen at the Freeport Historical Museum, 311 Nat Hickey Lane.

Museum hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, military and senior citizens.

its annual "Haunted Tales of the Texas Coast" exhibit.

"Every October, we feature ghost stories from the Freeport and Brazoria County area. A lot of those stories people will be familiar with thanks to Catherine

Munson Foster's book 'Ghosts Along the Brazos,'" Museum Coordinator Wade Dillon said.

Since the first Anglo settlers arrived, it's been the home of many supernatural legends, and many of these were collected in a book by Foster, a writer and librarian who died in 1995. Many local residents have fond memories of her as the "Ghost Lady" who read from her book to them as children.

The stories that have been collected, from the book and elsewhere, have names such as "The Devil of Old Veleco" and "The Ghost of Brit Bailey." Some tales have been turned

■ See **HAUNTED**, Page 4A



JEREMY HILL/The Facts

The Freeport Historical Museum mixes historical tales of terror with spooky exhibits for the "Haunted Tales of the Texas Coast."

RECORDING HISTORY AS IT HAPPENS

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POLICEBEAT

From Facts staff reports

**ANGLETON
Knife claim disrupts school bus ride home**

Students on their way home from Angleton ISD were delayed after an elementary-grade student said he was carrying a weapon.

On the Thursday afternoon bus ride, an early-grade student said to other students on the bus that he had a knife, according to information released by

the district.

The bus driver was alerted about what the student said. The driver stopped the vehicle and called Angleton ISD police.

A search failed to locate a knife, and different transportation was provided for the student, according to the release.

The remaining students on the bus were safely transported home, the release states.



JEREMY HILL/The Facts

Visitors to the Freeport Historical Museum can take a spooky selfie with "The Lady in the Gray Taffeta Dress" during the museum's "Haunting Tales of the Texas Coast" exhibit, which opens Saturday.

Haunted

CONTINUED FROM COVER

into short videos by the museum, and this year they are adding another to their haunting repertoire — the tragic story of "The Lady in the Gray Taffeta Dress," which is set at Bell's Landing in East Columbia and follows a married couple that is separated by murder.

"Not only is 'Haunted Tales of the Texas Coast' a physical exhibit, it's also a video series, so every year we try to release a new episode or two," Dillon said.

This is the third year for the exhibit and many patrons have made requests for what stories to do next. Dillon says "The Lady in the Gray Taffeta Dress" is the most popular story among them.

"We filmed an eight-minute episode. It's actually the longest episode we've done," he said. "We had living historians from the state of Texas and Louisiana volunteer their time to create this episode and the staff at the Levi Jordan Plantation and Varner-Hogg Plantation

were kind enough to allow us to film at both sites."

He thinks the finished product does justice to the story and will leave fans satisfied, Dillon said.

The video will premiere Saturday with the opening of the exhibit. It also will be featured on the museum's Facebook page, along with all of the previous episodes.

"I think folks, especially in Freeport, are looking for something to do during the Halloween season and this is something that we can present that incorporates history and local folklore," Dillon said.

For those who want even more spooky stuff, the museum also will have its annual Ghost Walk from 5 to 8 p.m. Oct. 29, the Saturday before Halloween.

The museum is at 311 Nat Hickey Lane and is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays. Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children, military and senior citizens.

Kent Holle is a reporter for The Facts. Contact him at 979-237-0154.

Exhibits

CONTINUED FROM COVER

the panels as local as she could. The newspaper cutouts show the history and geography of Texas with its predominantly Hispanic and Spanish colonies for several centuries.

"The impact that they made on people is what really got to me," Landry said.

She also wanted to address the growth of education for Hispanics locally, in Texas and the United States.

As she dug through archives, Landry saw the evolution of bilingual education and the efforts being made to send more Hispanic students to college, Landry said.

Gina Aguirre Adams, founder and president of the Brazoria County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, is one of the four local figures recognized in the exhibit, joined by Teresa Arroyo, the late Lucilla Longoria Henderson and Dr. Jose Figueroa.

"Latinos have to have a seat at the table. If you're not at the table, you're not the menu," a quote on Adams' display reads.

Arroyo was the first Hispanic woman to earn the rank of master gunnery sergeant in the U.S. Marine Corps. The 1992 Brazosport High School graduate is among those recognized on the Brazosport ISD Wall of Fame.

Henderson, who died in 2019, was an active civic leader and one of the first women to join the Brazosport Rotary Club in 1987. She also served as a Brazosport College regent and rose to vice president of Community and Business Engagement at Texas Dow Employees Credit Union.

Figueroa, another alumni of Brazosport ISD, is an assistant professor at the Harvard Medical School.

"It's pretty prestigious to start from a somewhat small community and school districts like Brazosport," Landry said.

Adams received an email from the museum just a week before Hispanic Heritage Month began telling her she would be represented.

"I was just surprised they asked me, and I told them I was really honored that they would consider me to be one of those home county's heroes," Adams said.

Hispanic Heritage Month is just a good way to be able to promote Hispanics who contribute to local communities, Adams said.

"A lot of the time, we don't like to get recognized for the great things that we do in our communities, we just do it," she said.

Her parents asked her to come visit the exhibit. It



JEREMY HILL/The Facts

The Lake Jackson Historical Museum's new Hispanic heritage exhibit features local Hispanic history, moments of historical significance, and "Hometown Heroes" on Thursday.



JEREMY HILL/The Facts

This Star-Spangled Follies program booklet, on display at the Lake Jackson Historical Museum, had its cover illustrated by artist Don Hutson.

was the first time Adams had been to the museum.

During her tour, she spotted an older Hispanic man who noticed her at the ribbon cutting.

"He said, 'I just had to come and see it,' so he was very proud and he said, 'You're my hero. I'm very proud of everything that you're doing for our Latino community,'" Adams said.

She read about the other three hometown heroes. She is proud to be one of the four represented among them.

"I'm honored to be able to tell my story," she said. "I think this hopefully is gonna be the start of something new every year. And I'm hoping that every year they do recognize other Hispanic leaders," Adams said.

Adams will be present again Oct. 14 for the closing ceremony of the exhibit.

Each hero had their own biography with accolades which included personal quotes about what it meant to be Hispanic or latino. Hispanic heritage

is important to Landry, because of her background being Mexican-American.

"Hispanic heritage has always been important to me personally, in the communities I've grown up in," Landry said "And so I wanted to sort of give an outlet for this community to celebrate that in a public space, where they feel recognized for the really deep history and culture that's in this area."

SCENES OF BRAZORIA HISTORY

Six three-sided display boards showing sections of variant designs and types of paintings highlight the works of a man who was more than an artist.

Don Hutson began his art while serving in the Air Force. He started work on posters, drawing sketches of officers and commercial-type art.

After receiving his bachelor's degree in fine arts from Trinity University, Dow Chemical hired him as a draftsman. He eventually grew into an illustrator and writer for Dow's research group.

Alongside those, he designed and created displays for the DOW Research center and the booths at the Brazoria County Fair, where he more times than not won first place for his achievements. He died in 1988 at age 59.

Angel Villarreal, curator for the museum, helped set up the exhibit featuring Hutson's works. The museum retrieved some of his work through donations, including one by William Howard, a member of the Brazosport Museum of Natural Science.

Hutson's favorite medium to work in was watercolor, as seen in one of the display paintings. He also did cartoons, sketches and plantation paintings.

One of his paintings, an Abner Jackson plantation home in Lake Jackson is featured in the Archaeological Investigations display at the Levi Jordan Plantation State Historic Site in Brazoria?

"It's just a good time because we were able to really look at our collections and see, we have a number of his works," said Lindsay Scoville, executive director of Lake Jackson Historical Association. "A lot of other people have either studied under him or have his paintings, and so we just kind of got to talk to them about it."

The museum attempts to do a couple of temporary exhibits each year to bring a new display to visitors, mixing up displays from local artists and traveling exhibits.

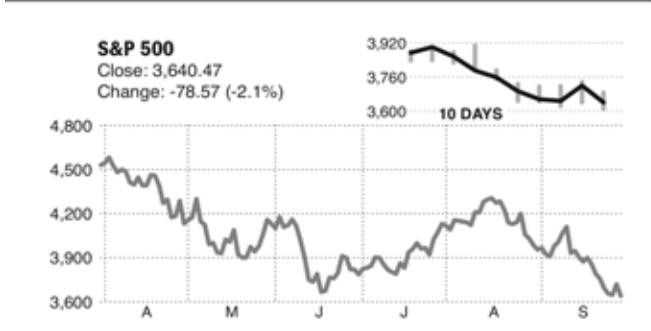
"There was definitely interest in the community," Scoville said. "So it was a good time to put this exhibit together, and showcase it for the community who has really interacted with him for many, many years while he was alive and loved his work."

The exhibit opened Sept. 20 and will remain in place until Nov. 12.

Andrew Tineo is a reporter for The Facts, contact him at 979-237-0151.

THE MARKET IN REVIEW

DAILY S&P 500



STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS: NYSE AND NASDAQ

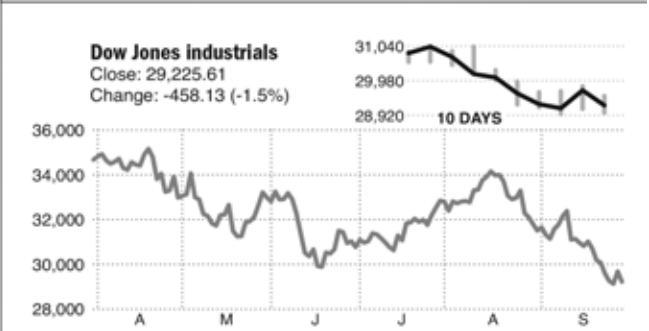
GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)			LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE)			MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)		
Name	Last	%Chg	Name	Last	%Chg	Name	Vol (00s)	Last
SentiBio	2.11	+71	AtisMot A n	33.95	-41.20	Apple Inc	1278306	142.48
VertAero n	9.64	+2.06	TwinVee	2.52	-1.03	AMD	1024097	64.14
OcularTher	5.13	+1.00	RiteAid	5.06	-1.97	FordM	841106	11.47
Hearste n	4.18	+74	PioneerPW	3.09	-1.06	Tesla s	772859	268.21
Akous	6.30	+91	FaZeHid n	9.26	-3.07	SentiBio	741741	2.11
HarrowHl	11.52	+161	CarMax	65.16	-21.26	ItauJnH	606384	5.20
Cyclacel pf	7.10	+90	PipGen n	6.36	-2.57	Amazon s	587760	114.80
GoldSun A n	32.40	+3.91	Carvana A	21.57	-5.30	Palantr	578079	8.08
TyraBio	8.78	+103	ElectroSen	4.86	-99	Carnival	570805	9.16
AveThera rs	7.25	+80	NordicAm	2.67	-53	SoFiTech	567287	4.84

MONEY RATES		CURRENCIES	
Last	Pvs Week	Last	Pvs Day
Prime Rate	6.25	Australia	1.5444
Discount Rate	3.75	Britain	1.1054
Federal Funds Rate	5.00-5.25	Canada	1.3713
Treasuries		Euro	1.0215
3-month	3.33	Japan	144.43
6-month	3.91	Mexico	20.1930
5-year	3.98	Switzerland	9782
10-year	3.79		
30-year	3.72		

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Name	Ex	Div Yld	PE	Last	Chg	%Chg	YTD %Chg
ASML Hid	NA	3.18	7	32	42778	-13.45	-6.3
AT&T Inc	NY	1.11	7.1	6	15.53	-30	-36.9
AbbottLab	NY	1.88	19	21	98.29	-43	-30.2
AbbVie	NY	5.64	4.0	20	142.72	-1.88	+5.4
Accenture	NY	3.88	15	28	258.27	-3.66	-37.7
AdobeInc	NA	—	—	24	278.25	-3.15	-50.9
Alibaba	NY	—	—	37	79.06	-1.93	-33.4
Amazon s	NA	—	—	114.80	-3.21	-31.1	—
Amgen	NA	7.76	3.4	19	228.41	-2.57	+1.5
Apple Inc s	NA	9.2	6	24	142.48	-7.36	-19.8
AstraZen	NA	1.37	2.5	—	54.91	-2.2	-5.7
BHP Billit	NY	6.02	11.9	—	50.42	-2.9	-6.3
BP PLC	NY	1.44	5.0	13	28.75	+1.9	+8.0
BkofAm	NY	8.8	2.9	10	30.66	-4.1	-31.1
BassettF	NA	6.4	4.0	9	16.18	-2.9	-3.5
BenchElec	NY	6.6	2.7	18	24.86	-4.1	-8.3
BerkH B	NY	—	—	37	269.58	-2.20	-9.8
BrlMySq	NY	2.16	3.0	25	71.71	-3.5	+15.0
Broadcom	NA	14.40	3.2	42	450.13	-15.83	-32.4
CVS Health	NY	2.20	2.3	16	96.98	-1.18	-6.0
CenterPnt	NY	7.2	2.5	21	28.84	-3.1	+3.3
Cheniere Mkt	—	—	—	164.31	+1.14	+62.0	—
Chevron	NY	5.68	3.9	18	144.77	-1.01	-23.4
Cisco	NA	1.52	3.7	16	40.57	-7.1	-36.0
CocaCola	NA	1.76	3.1	24	56.57	-4.1	-4.5
Comcast	NA	1.08	3.5	10	30.43	-7.3	-39.5
ConocoPhil	NY	2.80	2.7	9	103.66	+6.6	+43.6
Costco	NA	3.60	8	45	478.98	-9.31	-15.6
Danaher	NY	1.00	4	31	262.15	-3.84	-20.3
Dillard	NY	80	3	5	262.44	-5.98	+7.1
Disney	NY	—	—	67	97.45	-1.95	-37.1
Dow Inc	NY	2.80	6.3	5	44.16	-8.9	-22.1
DuPont	NY	1.32	2.6	21	50.65	-6.0	-32.3
Eli Lilly	NY	3.52	4.0	10	88.68	-1.8	+4.9
ExxonMtl	NY	3.52	4.0	10	88.68	-1.8	+4.9
FordM	NY	4.0	3.5	4	11.47	-7.1	-44.8
Hallibur	NY	4.8	1.9	14	24.64	-1.0	+7.7
Honolup	NY	7.60	2.7	18	278.33	-3.86	-32.9
HomeWrlnt	NA	3.92	2.3	23	170.07	-3.7	-18.4
JPMorgCh	NY	4.00	3.8	9	106.16	-1.83	-33.0
JohnJn	NY	4.40	2.7	22	164.53	-1.83	-33.0
Kroger	NY	1.04	2.3	30	44.68	-7.7	-13
Linde	NY	4.24	1.6	39	269.61	-1.84	-22.2
Lowes	NY	4.20	2.2	16	190.46	-4.07	-26.3
MasterCard	NY	1.76	6	29	286.77	-3.41	-20.2
McDonalds	NY	5.52	2.4	25	234.40	-2.54	-12.6
Merck	NY	2.76	3.2	13	86.64	-1.4	+13.0

STOCK MARKET INDEXES



52-Week High	Low	Name	Last	Net Chg	%Chg	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg
36,952.65	28,958.22	Dow Industrials	29,225.61	-458.13	-1.54	-19.57	-13.65
18,246.51	11,946.21	Dow Transportation	12,257.91	-199.22	-1.60	-25.61	-12.46
1,077.08	867.90	Dow Utilities	906.00	-38.84	-4.11	-7.62	+3.59
17,439.51	13,467.35	NYSE Composite	13,607.72	-225.46	-1.63	-20.72	-15.72
16,212.23	10,565.13	Nasdaq Composite	10,737.51	-314.13	-2.84	-31.37	-25.68
2,227.86	1,655.65	S&P 100	1,855.25	-38.86	-2.29	-24.58	-16.30
4,818.62	3,623.29	S&P 500	3,640.47	-78.57	-2.11	-23.62	-15.49
2,925.93	2,185.93	S&P MidCap	2,218.67	-47.29	-2.09	-21.93	-15.49
49,089.39	36,094.50	Wilshire 5000	36,323.91	-814.49	-2.19	-25.05	-19.01
2,458.85	1,641.47	Russell 2000	1,674.93	-40.31	-2.35	-25.40	-24.02

MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	Total Assets (\$MM)	NAV	4-wk	Total Return/12-mo	Rank	5-year	Pct Load	Min Inv
Fidelity 500IdxAdmrl	LB	379,206	335.87	-9.5	-15.2B	+9.5/A	NL	3,000
Vanguard 500IdxAdmrl	LB	358,286	126.84	-9.5	-15.2B	+9.5/A	NL	0
Vanguard TSMidAdmrl	LB	284,172	88.52	-9.7	-17.8D	+8.8B	NL	3,000
Vanguard TmStkAdmrl	FB	158,486	14.74	-10.8	-25.2B	-0.7B	NL	0
Vanguard IntlStkAdmrl	LB	142,044	308.21	-9.5	-15.2B	+9.6/A	NL	100,000,000
Vanguard IntlStkAdm								