

The Facts

Covering Brazoria County - Where Texas Began

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RYAN EVON/The Facts

Isamar Cantu of Clute dances for the St. Jerome Ballet Folklorico during the Brazoria County Fair parade Saturday through downtown Angleton. **MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 4A AND AT THEFACTS.COM.**

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TODAY IN BRAZOS LIVING, 1C

GARDEN LINE HOST LEMMON INFORMS LJ'S GREEN THUMBS



ANGLETON INVITATIONAL CROSS COUNTRY, 1B

LOCAL ROYALTY ON DISPLAY, 4A



No horseplay: Equine therapy works

Area program helps many with special needs.

By SHANNON DAUGHTRY
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ANGLETON — The first time 7-year-old Andrew Fontenot sat on top of a horse, he sat taller than he had ever sat before, his mother Terrie Fontenot said.

And that's really something, because Andrew has a form of Cerebral Palsy that gives him low muscle tone — especially in his

core muscles. It's a condition that affects functions such as his balance and rhythm.

"He had never been on a horse before," Fontenot said. "He sat so tall. It was almost like it was instinctual."

Getting on a horse for the first time was part of a unique form of treatment Andrew has been a part of for almost a year, called equine therapy.

"He loves all animals," Fontenot said. "So he was so excited to be able to be around horses."

■ See **THERAPY**, 5A



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

Andrew Fontenot, 7, rides Glory the horse as occupational therapist Christie Bowden, left, mom Terrie Fontenot, center, and equine specialist Kathy Gambino, walk alongside him Tuesday in Angleton.

Refuge offers glimpse of wild near the city

Dow Woods opens to the public.

By ALAN NIESCHWIEZ
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LAKE JACKSON — With Saturday's opening of the Dow Woods Unit, it's now easier than ever for residents to get closer to nature without having to travel very far to do it.

Managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the San Bernard Wildlife Refuge, Dow Woods — so called because Dow Chemical Co. donated the 338 acres for it in 2008 — will give people a chance to see the wildlife and vegetation on a tract of land that was, until now, overlooked by locals for the most part.

"Most people just drive by," Refuge Manager Jennifer Sanchez said of the new nature preserve, located directly north of FM 2004 on Old Angleton Road. She included herself in that statement as well.

"Until Dow came to us, I didn't pay any attention to it, and I used to drive this way every day to work in Angleton," Sanchez said.

In addition to the numerous birds that live or pass through the property, there's aquatic life that lives in and around Bastrop Bayou, which bisects the parcel, and other animals like deer, raccoons and armadillos, she said.

"It's a bot-tomlands hardwood habitat that's only found in this part of Texas."

— Shane Kasson, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

■ See **REFUGE**, Page 7A



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

Jennifer Sanchez with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department walks along on the the new walking paths at Dow Woods in Lake Jackson on Thursday.

CRIME AND PUNISHMENT



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

Danny Garcia, 10, leans on his grandfather, Riad Attar, as he talks about his father, Daniel Attar, who was killed in the 2000 Woodhollow Apartment fire in Lake Jackson. Danny was not yet born at the time of the fire, but said his mom always tells him he looks like his dad.

SEEKING JUSTICE

Woodhollow fire victims' family upset over killer's parole; fights to change medical release laws.

By JOHN TOMPKINS
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LAKE JACKSON
When young Daniel Attar Jr. visits his grandparents, he sometimes brings home a piece of jewelry, a picture, a coin — all belongings of the father he never knew.

"I've only seen the photos that my mom and grandparents have," said Daniel, 10.



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

Family of Daniel and Omar Attar, twin brothers who were killed in the 2000 Woodhollow arson, include, back from left, Cynthia Hudspeth, Yvette Garcia, Maria and Riad Attar; front, Yvette Garcia's sons Jay Cantu and Danny Garcia.

■ See **FAMILY**, Page 6A

Quintana council selects acting mayor in wake of Neeley departure

By SHANNON DAUGHTRY
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QUINTANA — Council members delayed a decision on who would be the next mayor while

they come to grips with having lost the last one.

Council had a special meeting Friday night to appoint a mayor pro tem after Mayor Wallace Neeley shocked his fel-

low village leaders by turning in his resignation Monday night. Neeley had served three years as mayor.

"I feel the mayor did a good job and he's just tired and he

wanted to resign," Councilman Jerry Masters said. "I don't have a problem with that, I do understand."

Councilman Leon Cortese was elected mayor pro tem

Friday, making him the acting mayor. Council plans to appoint a mayor at its next regular meeting, Nov. 14.

■ See **MAYOR**, Page 10A

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