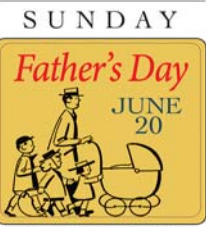


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CHANNEL CURRENTS

SAT. JUNE 19 Community Day Out Parade

Sponsored by the Harris County Cultural Arts Council, everyone is invited to participate in the 4th Annual Community Day Out Parade. Starting at 12:00 noon (Line up starting at 10:30am) at 13334 Wallisville Road, at the HC-CAC.

Parade Route heads east down Wallisville, turn right on Dell Dale, turn right on Woodforest, turn right on Normandy, turn left on Wallisville ending back at the Harris County Cultural Arts Council building.

A \$50 cash prize if offered for the best decorated vehicle.

Info text PARADE to 832-883-6982.

SanJac receives \$30 million donation

Gift is by Amazon founder's ex-wife

By Amanda Fenwick

PASADENA, Texas — Philanthropist and author MacKenzie Scott and her husband Dan Jewett have donated \$30 million to San Jacinto College, the largest private gift in the College's history.

"The San Jacinto College Board of Trustees, the San Jacinto College Foundation Board of Directors, as well as our employees and students, both current and future, are deeply grateful for this very generous gift," said Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer. "We weren't expecting it, and it came at just the right time



MacKenzie Scott, donor

so we could put programs like 21Forward in place to help the students in East Harris County who made it through their senior year. These students were impacted by COVID, yet they persisted and gradu-

ated. We are honored to be able to use a portion of this gift to help students stay on their higher education pathway. We look forward to announcing plans for the remainder of the funding in the future. For now, we are stunned by this unbelievable gift and excited about the opportunities it provides for us to serve our community in new ways."

Scott made the announcement this morning in a blog post, donating more than \$2.7 billion to 286 organizations throughout the country. In her post she says, "Higher education is a proven pathway to opportunity, so we



Brenda Hellyer, SJ Chancellor

looked for 2- and 4-year institutions successfully educating students who come from communities that have been chronically underserved."

San Jacinto College announced the creation of the

21 Forward scholarship earlier this month after it learned of the generous donation. The College is currently developing plans for the use of the additional funds from the Scott gift.

Billionaire philanthropist MacKenzie Scott and her husband, Dan Jewett, announced new donations Tuesday of tens of millions of dollars to a group of Texas universities and community colleges that serve large amounts of students of color.

MacKenzie Scott, who owns 4% of Amazon and used to be married to its

Continued. See Page 3

Citizens in Galena Park protest city's secrecy

By Jennifer Knesek
Dolcefino Consulting

Galena Park City Commissioner Maricela Serna led a community protest Tuesday, June 15, 2021, at noon as the city pool opened for the summer.

The protest was not against the opening of the pool, she said, but how the opening of the pool highlights the secrecy at Gale-

na Park City Hall.

"The pool is opening but Mayor Esmeralda Moya refuses to open up City Hall for public meetings," said Commissioner Maricela Serna. "She has used the pandemic to hide the truth from the Galena Park taxpayers."

Serna wanted the Galena Park City Council to debate the opening of City Hall at Tuesday evening's meeting, but the city sec-

retary refused to add the secrecy fight to the agenda.

Commissioner Serna claims she has been repeatedly muted during the eight-minute-long council meetings so she can not speak on certain contracts.

"What started as a safety measure has now been turned into a way to hide public business in Galena Park," Serna said.

The protest is an-

nounced as Dolcefino Consulting files a formal criminal complaint against Mayor Esmeralda Moya, City Secretary Mayra Gonzales, and City Attorney Robert Collins for withholding public records.

"We have informed the Galena Park Mayor of our widening investigation, which already uncovered the City of Galena Park

had a \$705,000 unpaid water bill owed to the City of Houston," said Wayne Dolcefino. "We have received allegations water bills were manipulated for the Mayor and her supporters."

The Galena Park pool protest happened at the splash pad across from the City Pool, 1600 16th Street, at noon on Tuesday, June 15, 2021.

County initiates program to help Homeless

HARRIS COUNTY — Last week, Harris County Sheriff Ed Gonzeles launched a workforce development program in collaboration with Harris County Precinct 2 and Career and Recovery Resources, Inc. that supports those experiencing homelessness in east Harris County.

According to the Coalition for the Homeless, nearly 4,000 people in the Houston area are experiencing homelessness. This innovative partnership — rooted in community development — empowers our



Homeless Program participants removing Graffiti in East Harris County.

most vulnerable neighbors with the tools, skills, and support to help them overcome barriers to success. It connects program participants to affordable housing, employment resources, and other critical services through Career and Recovery Resources, Inc. It also allows them to earn an income by completing community development projects.

Commissioner Adrian Garcia's Office funded the six-month pilot program, which actively recruits participants and provides them with transportation, meals throughout the workday, personal protective equipment, and the necessary training and tools to properly remove graffiti from bridges, roads, and buildings. Weather permitting, participants will have the chance to work on a first come, first served basis Monday through Thurs-

day for about \$50 a day.

Homeless Outreach Team deputies are in the community doing all they can to help those without housing. We have dedicated Deputy Medina to the program to coordinate with our partners on worksite locations, crew schedules, transportation needs, and other important logistics. He is serving as the program lead.

Their work continued this week in the Channelview and Cloverleaf areas and will eventually expand

Continued. See Page 2

WASTE PITS VIRTUAL MEETING:

EPA sees longer, difficult remediation work

EPA holds virtual meeting to update community on San Jacinto River Waste Pits EPA CONFIRMS LONGER TIME SCHEDULE, SLOWER WORK FOR SJRWP REMEDIATION

HIGHLANDS — The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) held a virtual meeting last Thursday night, June 10, to update the communities around the San Jacinto River on progress to remediate the Waste Pits. This is the first meeting to interface with the public since 2019, due to safety concerns with the Pandemic that limited the travel for the EPA. However, they did meet in person in April with the CAC, or



SINGLE WALL COFFERDAM, TOP, WON'T WORK. DOUBLE WALL BELOW IS NEW DESIGN.

Community Advisory Committee. For those unable to join the meeting by internet, two in-person viewing sites were set up by THEA, at the Highlands Community Center and the Channelview Fire Department.

EPA brought news that the original designs for excavation and dewatering would not work, and more investigation and planning was required. EPA had discovered that the toxic material existed much deeper than original sampling had indicated, not 12' but in some cases 35'. This meant much more material would have to be removed. The deeper excavation also meant that a double wall cofferdam would be required to safely excavate, and treating of ground water would have to be done "in the dry" by dewatering, not as originally proposed. All of this meant the project would require additional time, work, and money.

The presentation from EPA was



ASHLEY HOWARD, EPA

made by Ashley Howard, the Remediation Project Manager for the Waste Pits. She was assisted by Janetta Coats, Lauren Poulos, and Heather Davis. Howard succeeded Gary Baumgarten, who retired after many years

working on the SJRWP project. There were about 53 individuals on the Zoom connection, and 4 from EPA. Attendees included representative of TCEQ, Harris County Precinct 2, and others.

Howard started with a review of the history of the project, and showed some aerial photos of how the river has changed its course from 1966 to 1997 to 2006, and how the Waste Pits became eventually partially submerged. Then she stated that after the toxic pits were discovered in 1965, a plan eventually led to them being covered with a contain

Continued. See WASTE PITS, page 4

SHELDON ISD SCHOOL NEWS

District recognizes staff at end of year celebration



Sheldon ISD Board of Trustees and administration gathered to celebrate this year's District Teacher of the Year winners as well as honor the work of 16 retirees for their time in Sheldon ISD.

The following staff were recognized:

Retirees (including total years of service to Texas public education):

- Marjorie Braden (NMS), 4 years
- Santa Young (NMS), 5 years
- Bobbie New (KHS), 14 years
- Graciela Fletcher (CECA), 15 years
- Edna Sandoval (KHS), 15 years
- Roselind Williams (Transportation), 17 years
- Gwendolyn Savage (KHS), 19 years
- Dr. Eduardo Guevara (KHS), 20 years
- Mirna Castilla (SLE), 21 years
- Mariahelena Torralba (KHS), 26 years
- Derik Moore (NEY), 27 years

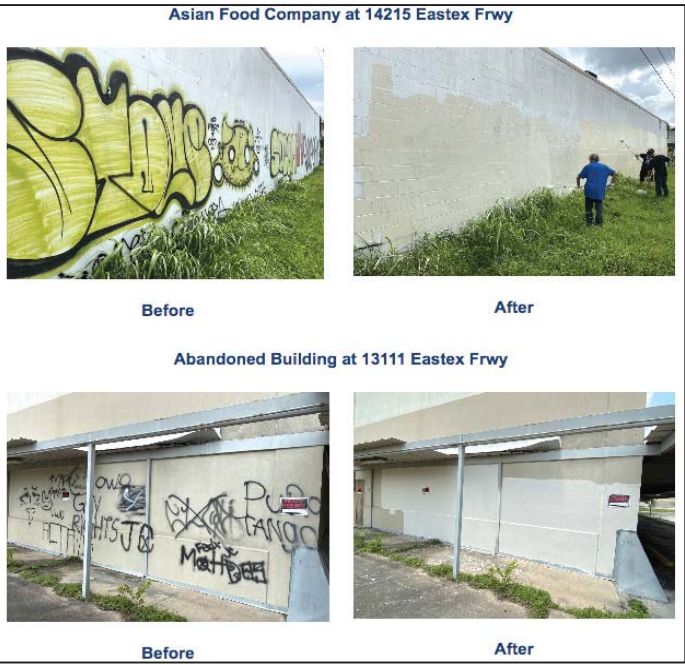


Elementary Teacher of the Year - Tiffanie Ivy (Garrett Elementary)
Secondary Teacher of the Year - Cynthia McFadyen (C. E. King High School)

- Deborah Starnes (NEY), 28 years
- Devette Robinson (CE), 29 years
- Jeran Walker (RE), 32 years
- Alison Brusch (KASE), 37 years
- Susan Pansmith (NEY), 42 years

Sheriff initiates Homeless assistance program,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



to other quality-of-life and community beautification projects in east Harris County, such as removing trash from illegal dumping and maintaining clean parks.

On Thursday, participants started their day with warm showers and fresh clothes at Hope Center Houston before attending a Resource Day at Career and Recovery Resources, Inc. There, staff and volunteers shared more information about their comprehensive services, which range from job training to counseling and peer support. Participants also received on-site health screenings from UTMB Health and assistance applying for a Texas Identification Card and Harris Health's Gold Card, a lifeline for affordable medications and clinic visits.

Homelessness is among the most important, complex issues facing our criminal justice system today. The Sheriff said we must work together to address these issues through multi-faceted strategies and compassion.

This workforce development program is an example of community policing and what can be accomplished when law enforcement agencies and the community come together.

The Sheriff's office is proud to be part of this collaborative approach setting a viable path forward for those experiencing homelessness. Although our partner agencies have different missions, we're all united around the call to serve our most vulnerable neighbors and keep everyone safe.

HCSO Continues Mental Health Training Aimed

at Helping Deputies Respond to Residents in Crisis

"Whether they go to detentions or patrol, (they) have to go through 40 hours of mental health training and then 16 hours of de-escalation training," said Sgt. Jose Gomez.

De-escalation training includes scenarios. In one of them, an inmate at a detention center threatens suicide and deputies attempt to de-escalate the situation.

150 deputies are also equipped with tablets that can connect people in crisis at a scene directly to a psychiatrist at The Harris Center.

"When they go to a call for service and they need to talk to a clinician or need an assessment, they're able to pull out the device," said Gomez."

Turner Chevrolet to support Highlands Little League



Turner Chevrolet GM David Mendez presents a check to representatives of the Highlands Little League.

HIGHLANDS – Turner Chevrolet Crosby is partnering with the Highlands Little League. Turner Chevrolet Crosby has joined forces with the national Chevrolet Youth Baseball & Softball program to provide new equipment, invitations to free instructional clinics and an opportunity for community members to earn donations for their league via a test drive fundraiser.

"Playing baseball and softball helps kids develop skills like leadership, cooperation, and sportsmanship while bringing families and communities together to show their support. Turner Chevrolet Crosby and Chevrolet Youth Baseball & Softball are proud to participate in a sport that brings so many smiles to kids and families in Crosby," said David Mendez, General Manager for Turner Chevrolet Crosby. "Chevrolet believes in the power of play as a way for young people to build the skills needed to be successful in the future and supports the spirit of teamwork that baseball and softball instills in its players."

2021 marks the sixteenth year of Chevrolet's Youth Baseball & Softball program and has benefitted over 8 million players since it launched. In 2020, more than 1,300 Chevrolet dealers participated across the country.

Turner Chevrolet Crosby will present Highlands Little League an equipment kit that includes useful items such as equipment bags, first aid kits, batting tees, and ball buckets. The sponsorship also includes youth clinics featuring current and former MLB/MiLB players and coaches, or instruction from Ripken Baseball.

In addition, Turner Chevrolet Crosby will present a check representing a one-time monetary contribution to Highlands Little League. Sponsored leagues across the country will have the chance to earn additional funds as community members take test drives at their partnering dealership to help support the league.

"Chevrolet vehicles are designed and built with busy families in mind, featuring a comprehensive suite of available safety features; technologies that make the journey more comfortable and engaging for the entire family; and the space and flexibility needed to haul people and cargo. We would encourage everyone to come take a look at what Chevrolet has to offer," said Mendez.

For more information about Chevrolet Youth Baseball & Softball, please visit www.chevrolet.com/youthsports.com.

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ASK THE EXPERT

CHARLOTTE'S WEB

Get Active!

As more and more of us have been vaccinated for COVID, it is time to get active. There are so many activities in the community that it does not make sense to get in the car and drive across town, especially if your destination includes parking fees.

This weekend in celebration of Juneteenth there are events happening for all ages. Harris County Cultural Arts Center (HCCAC) has opportunities on Friday beginning at 5:30 p.m. with Juneteenth Matters! This will include a panel discussion and artistic expression about the importance of Juneteenth to Texans as well as the world. It will include participation by Ambassador Andrew Young, representatives of Galveston's Juneteenth Legacy Project and representatives of Barrett Station—the ONLY registered Freedman's town in the state of Texas. The legislative effort led by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee to establish the emancipation trail from Galveston to Houston and Juneteenth as a national holiday will also be highlighted. The Congresswoman will be recognized as the inaugural recipient of the HCCAC Cultural Trailblazer Award. Guests can also enjoy a special exhibition of the art collection of Judge Joe Stephens as well as view several Juneteenth related original works by renowned presidential artist Ted Ellis.

On Saturday, community members are invited to participate in the Fourth Annual Community Day-Out Parade. The line-up will begin at 11 a.m. at HCCAC and the parade will begin at noon. In addition to the \$50 cash prize for the best decorated vehicle, which will be awarded at the end of the parade, neighbors are invited to enjoy the Juneteenth Jambo-ree which will feature an outdoor filled with food, entertainment and fun. Guests will also be able to tour the Cultural Arts Center and view the art exhibit as well.

The parade will leave the HCCAC and head east on Wallisville, south of Dell Dale, west on Woodforest Blvd. and north on Normandy back to the HCCAC for an afternoon of fun. Recent graduates are invited to join the parade as well as local bike clubs, car clubs, non-profits, church groups and more. To enter into the parade, please text parade to 832.883.6982.

Once the parade is over, stay and enjoy the activities as well as the free gospel concert. You will have the opportunity to register to vote as well as learn of volunteer opportunities in the community. Anyone who needs a COVID vaccination will also have the opportunity.

In the weeks ahead there are many opportunities to volunteer to make a difference. East Harris County Empowerment Council will be hosting a series of Clothing Distributions for families with children under the age of 12. For each of these events, they will need at least five volunteers on Wednesday to sort and pack clothing. On Saturdays, they will need 15-20 volunteers to assist with the distributions. To learn more about volunteering, please visit www.EastHarrisCounty.org

Channelview ISD employee designs app for STAAR exam,

A free app designed and developed by a Channelview ISD employee aims to help students pass the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) Social Studies and Science exam. The app is for 8th grade students who will be taking the Social Studies and Science STAAR exam at the end of the academic year. Secondary Technology Integration Specialist Marc Chicoria developed the app that can be used by students across the state at no cost to them. "I was inspired to want to give students an easy way to study without having to pull out a computer and have the internet," said Chicoria. "This app makes studying convenient and they can take it with them wherever they go." The app took about 4 weeks to complete, and is now available on the Google Play Store and Apple Store. The social studies app contains content vocabulary, dates, events and key historical figures that are covered during the school year. "It's no secret that young adults are on their phones for quite an amount of time everyday. This app allows them to take fun quizzes to test their knowledge," said Channelview ISD Superintendent Greg Ollis. "This app is a game changer and it is no surprise to me that a member of our curriculum team developed it. We have a talented team of educators that are always looking for innovative ways to help students." Chicoria is currently working on additional social studies and science apps that can be used by 6th grade students. In the meantime, he encourages students to download the app and begin the STAAR practice questions. This app does not collect any personal information from the cell phone user.

\$30 m donation to San Jacinto college,

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

founder, Jeff Bezos, gave \$40 million to the University of Texas at San Antonio, which the university plans to use to boost student enrollment, retention and graduation rates at the Hispanic-serving institution. She also gave \$40 million to the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and donated to multiple community colleges across Texas, including \$15 million to Amarillo College, \$15 million to San Antonio College and \$30 million to San Jacinto College, according to a blog post announcing the latest donations, which total \$2.7 billion. Scott is said to be worth \$60 billion and has given away \$8 billion already to hundreds of organizations across the country. In December, Scott donated \$50 million to Prairie View A&M University, a historically Black university, and \$40 million to Texas A&M International University in Laredo, which primarily serves Hispanic students. Both gifts are the largest in each university's history. About San Jacinto College Surrounded by monu-

ASK DIAMOND JIM

Diamond Jim: “Do you have any “proposal” suggestions?”

You've found the right person. You've found the right ring. Now you have to find the right moment to pop the question. So how do you make your proposal turn out flawlessly? We have plenty of tried-and-true tips to help you, but overall, it all comes down to just one thing: effort. Putting in real effort, thought and love into your proposal makes all the difference. Remember, your proposal doesn't have to change the world. It just has to show your partner that they mean the world to you. Here are a few tips that will help you along the way:

KNOW THE ANSWER
Your proposal should be surprising, but it shouldn't come directly out of left field. Before you pull a ring out, have a good idea how your partner will respond. "Will you marry me?" shouldn't be your first discussion on the subject.

RULES OF THE ENGAGEMENT (RING)
Here's where a little bit of effort goes a long way. The history of the diamond as an engagement ring first became popular in the 1930's, but the idea of an engagement ring has been around for centuries. If you're still deciding on a diamond engagement ring, consider doing some window shopping with your partner prior to making a purchase. If you want to keep things more secretive, talk to your partner's friends and family to get a feel for their taste. Another option is to use a stand-in ring for the proposal. Perhaps you can use their great grandmother's diamond engagement ring, and then take your partner shopping later. (A trusted jeweler can tell you everything you need to know about how to buy a diamond and will take the time to help educate both of you).

PEACE-OF-MIND
Do your homework before buying the engagement ring. Most importantly, find a jeweler you trust. And, since you're making such a big investment, make sure you insure the ring as soon as you purchase it. Your knowledgeable jeweler should be willing and able to discuss this with you. One option is that you may be able to insure it for an additional cost under your homeowner's or tenants insurance policy.

ASK PERMISSION, NOT FORGIVENESS
Before you take a knee, take the time to speak with your partner's parents first. Asking permission is a tradition carried since the Roman times, and it's a great way to make a good impression on your future in-laws.

KEEP IT TRADITIONAL
In an intimate setting, preferably one with family and friends waiting nearby, drop to one knee and let your heart do the talking. Then, Celebrate. You did it! Consider toasting your engagement with a night on the town, a glass of bubbly or a celebration with friends and family.

Diamond Jim is a master jeweler, diamond dealer and precious metals broker of NTR Metals. Pineforest Jewelry has been a proud member of the IJO for many years. See more at: www.pineforestjewelry.com. Thank you for reading the "Ask Diamond Jim" column and for supporting the North Channel Star Newspaper!
If you have questions pertaining to jewelry, watches, diamonds, precious stones, precious metals, and other questions related to the jewelry industry, email jmills@pineforestjewelry.com.

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Defibrillators installed in Crosby ISD stadiums



The Cody Stephens Foundation teamed up with the Crosby Education Foundation to make our stadiums in Crosby a little bit safer. We got a Defibrillator for the baseball complex also. But this one was a priority because of the upcoming graduation. The Cody Stephens Foundation wants to thank all who have believed in us and have donated your hard earned dollars to us. We understand you have many choices for your charitable dollars. Let's pray this AED is never needed. But we will rest easier knowing our stadiums are heart safe.

Dealing with the loss of a loved one is never easy, but maybe these guys can help!

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SHELDON ISD SCHOOL NEWS

Early registration for 2021-22 begins June 14

Beginning June 14th, go to www.sheldonisd.com/register/ to begin the registration process by completing the online pre-enrollment forms and uploading the required documents. Campus staff will call to set up appointments to let families know once the application is complete. The first day of school is Wednesday, August 11.

Summer Hours in Sheldon ISD

Beginning the week of June 14, Sheldon ISD will operate on summer hours. Buildings and offices will be closed on Fridays. Sheldon administration will be open Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Normal operating hours will resume beginning the week of August 2.

Register for Pre-kindergarten in Sheldon ISD

Pre-kindergarten registration is now open for new students to Sheldon ISD entering pre-kindergarten. To learn more and to register, go to www.sheldonisd.com/register/.

Sheldon offers Blue Card program for senior citizen residents

The Blue Card Program is an initiative to honor all of our supporters in the district who are age 65 or older. One of Sheldon ISD's goals is to create and foster an environment where all stakeholders are engaged and actively involved in the work we do for children. The success of our students is a shared responsibility of community members, parents, and educators, and we believe a community's collective power is greater than individual efforts. To sign up to be a Blue Card member, go to www.sheldonisd.com/bluecard/

KHS graduates second largest class in Sheldon ISD history



Sheldon's C.E. King High School co-valedictorians are pictured at commencement ceremonies held at Panther Stadium on Friday, June 11. From left to right is Jessica Tellez and Jennifer Vargas.



C.E. King High School graduates embrace as the end of the commencement ceremony draws to a close with a firework display at Panther Stadium.

Sheldon ISD community and families celebrated the Class of 2021 at commencement ceremonies on Friday, June 11 at Panther Stadium. Approximately 688 young men and women from C.E. King High School received their diplomas in one of history's most challenging school years. This was the second largest class (the large-

est was the Class of 2019) in Sheldon ISD history. The Class of 2021 earned more than \$2.5 million in scholarships and was the first graduating class to attend a full school year in the newly built C.E. King High School (which opened in February 2020). 19 seniors were accepted into San Jacinto Nursing College and was the second

graduating class to participate in the King Nurses in Training (KNIT) program. Approximately 33% of the Early College High School seniors graduated with associates degrees and 42 seniors graduated with certifications to prepare them for their next step in college and/or a career. Congratulations to the Class of 2021.

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WASTE PITS VIRTUAL MEETING:

EPA sees longer, difficult remediation work

Continued from Page 1

ment cap, with rock and a membrane in 2011.

Since then, the PRP (Potential Responsible Parties) have agreed to remediate and remove the wastes, and have been working with a consultant on how that might be accomplished. The original schedule for this work was developed after a Record of Decision was accepted in 2017. It called for the removal of 212,000 cu. yds. of waste material. It is now expected that at least 250,000 cu. yds. of material must be removed. The Final Design for the North and South Impoundments was due in 2021, and contract negotiation and remediation could start after that.

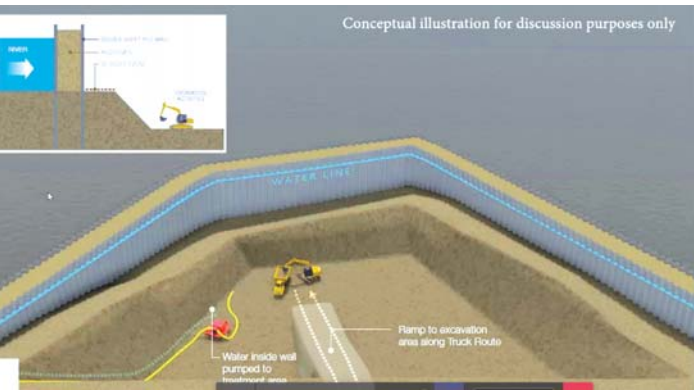
However, due to the discovery of deeper toxic material, and the unfeasibility of the water treatability scheme, the engineering consultant GHD asked for a time extension of 160 days, and later another 270 days. EPA granted these, which means that actual construction of remediation will not take place until 2023, and the Final Design calls for a 7 year project schedule. One year of mobilization, 5 years of excavation in 5 work zones, and one more year of demobilization until the land is deemed safe and free of

toxins.

Jackie Young Medcalf of THEA/SJRC commented on how "very frustrating to our group" these delays and extensions have been. It has now been about 10 years that the group has been working to remove the waste pits, and it looks like it might be another 10 years to completion.

Reasons that the EPA stated for granting the extension request include: 1. It has learned that treating the waste water in a flooded environment is "infeasible" and another method must be explored. 2. Deeper excavations mean more study for safe techniques is required. The consultant must investigate "barriers and risks". 3. The original borings and sampling had "data gaps" and more information must be developed. 4. Work now starting on the Lake Houston dam and spillways may affect water levels around the waste pits. More information is required, and this may take time.

Most of the delay, Howard explained, involves the Northern Impoundment site. Work on the Southern Impoundment may precede the North, because the Final Design simply calls for a "cut and fill" technique, where toxic material can be excavated with a backhoe, loaded on trucks,



DOUBLE WALL COFFERDAM WILL BE REQUIRED FOR A DEEPER EXCAVATION.

hailed away, and clean fill material would replace it. The amount of material to be removed is only expected to be about 24,600 cu. yds. and the depth only 10'. Only a small area would require cofferdams to hold back the river water, according to the Final Design. The Final Design was approved on May 7, 2021 and now will move to the next step, negotiations for an "enforcement document". It was revealed recently that the responsible parties for the two sites are different. The Northern Site PRP is Waste Management and International Paper, and the Southern Site PRP is International Paper.

Howard said that a TWG, or Technical Work-

ing Group, meets monthly to coordinate the responsibilities of different agencies in the area. This is becoming more important, since not only the work on the Lake Houston spillway affects the site, but TXDOT plans in the near future to replace the I-10 bridge over the river with a higher, wider new bridge and highway. TXDOT is also repairing, replacing, and adding to the bumpers or Dolphin structures in the river on either side of the channel, that are near the waste pits. That work is scheduled for this summer. The bridge replacement work is due to start in 2025, long before the Waste Pits remediation is complete. The two projects will exist beside each other,

with potential for interference.

The consultant is now reviewing his plan for the Northern site, with concern on these problems: — Excavation Depth —BMP design (retaining wall) — Water infiltration and risk of hydraulic heave —Additional Sampling requirements It is anticipated that the GHD consulting firm is going to recommend a double wall sheet pile cofferdam, a much larger structure than originally anticipated. This is one of the reasons the schedule has been moved back. Another problem to consider is that any cofferdam must be removed later, and now it has become larger and deeper than originally planned. EPA has called

for 30 more borings as part of the new study.

In the Q & A session that followed, Howard said that if an environmental spill or disaster occurred, the national Emergency Response Center can be reached at 800-424-8802 and they handle all types of emergencies and are in contact with all relevant agencies, local and national. Question: What interaction does EPA have with the barge companies? Answer: None, we do not have jurisdiction. The Coast Guard does. Question: Where will the waste go for disposal? Answer: We will know when the Final Design is submitted. Question: Will workers be protected from the Dioxin? Answer: There will not be any actual contact with waste, and Dioxin must be touched. Question: Why do you leave the waste material in place now? Answer: It is safe under the cap. It doesn't leach easily, but sticks to the soil.

The Final Design for the Northern Impoundment is due Feb. 2022. Then an enforcement document must be negotiated, and the one year of mobilization and procurement will proceed. That means at best construction or remediation should not start until 2023. The Southern Impoundment may happen sooner, it is under study, said Howard.



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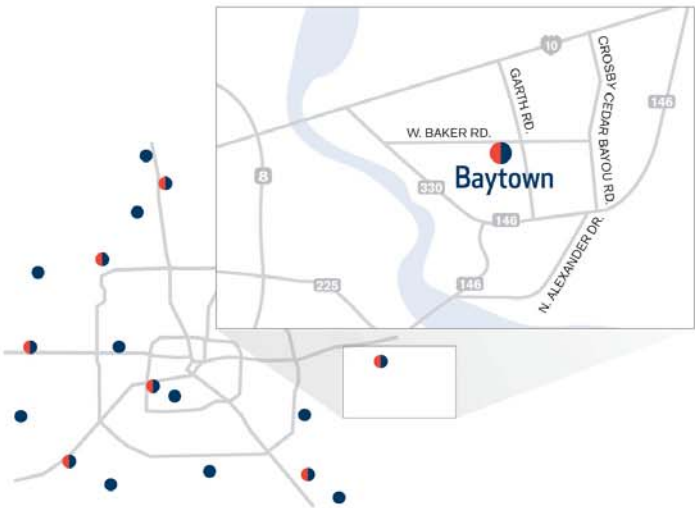
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