COVESTRO WEATHERS winter storm

NRG POWERING UP with Baytown plant expansion

LEE COLLEGE, INEOS collaborate for student training

TURNAROUND BY THE TONS
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Welcome to the April issue of Greater Baytown. There is so much going on—business is buzzing as we gradually emerge from the COVID-19 cocoon.

Two galas just occurred. The sense the excitement from being around friends and colleagues in person once again was alive.

The Mane Event benefitting Bay Area Homeless Services was held first, after they were the last event held before the COVID-19 shutdown last year. The Baytown Chamber of Commerce Gala was held next. See all the photos inside.

Matt Hollis writes about Covestro weathering the storm, page 4.
ExxonMobil Baytown Complex completes a Fuel South turnaround. See page 7.
NRG powers up Texas with an expansion at Cedar Bayou Station. Hollis’ story starts on page 8.
Covestro gives the City of Baytown solar powered benches. See page 10.
ExxonMobil dedicated efforts to generating electricity immediately following the big freeze, supplying the grid with much needed power. Read more on page 11.

The Black-Owned Business Alliance spotlights Pharmacist Jada Gilbert, owner of Blue Ribbon Pharmacy on page 12. Thanks to the efforts of Lee College Regent Gina Guillory, small business owners are getting some well-deserved attention.

Lee College and INEOS team up to provide students a simulated experience to learn about analyzer readings and process operations. See page 15.
Chevron Phillips Chemical donates a fire truck to Hardin County Emergency Services District #5. Read page 18.

For fun, read 10 things you didn’t know about Tom Kelchner, page 21.
Thank you for reading.

Carol Skewes
Publisher
When the Uri and Viola winter storms hit in February, it was a massive shock to practically everyone living in southeast Texas.

Residents were severely affected by the loss of power and water. The local industries were also hit hard. Covestro was among the local chemical and manufacturing plants that had to deal with the harsh weather, which dropped temperatures into the teens.

Demetri Zervoudis, Covestro senior vice president and site manager, said they received warnings about the storm before it arrived.

“We were aware the storm was coming. But no one truly believed we were going to have the low temperatures, but (the weathermen) were pretty accurate,” Zervoudis said.

Zervoudis said the plant receives weather notifications from the StormGeo website.

“We also have a department dedicated to weather monitoring. This is the same group that is looking out for hurricanes in the summertime,” he said.

Covestro has a Freeze Protection Policy that has been in place since a less-precarious freeze happened in 2018.

“But the 2018 freeze is nothing compared to this one,” Zervoudis said. “Not only from the temperatures perspective, but also for the duration.”

The policy allows the plant to do so many things, such as opens lines for water flow and check instruments for freeze protection.

When the Baytown water plant experienced a power failure, with even its backup generator failing to work along with multiple frozen lines, Covestro acted to protect its employees.

“We were getting water from the City of Baytown, and this is really the framework for safety showers and other facilities like bathrooms,” Zervoudis said. “That was a big concern, especially for safety showers. So, we made provisions to make sure people were protected.

Rolling blackouts also caused discomfort when the Electric Reliability Council of Texas implemented a partial grid shutdown during the storm, claiming it was minutes away from failing.

“We were lucky enough to have our own cogeneration facility over here with Calpine,” Zervoudis said. “They lost electricity for about four hours, but that was not a big event because we were able to get electricity from the grid.

In terms of preparation, Zervoudis said plant workers put the units into the cycle.

“The moment we realized we were not going to get any of our raw materials through the pipeline, there was absolutely no reason for us to wait for the units to shut down unexpectedly,” he said. “We proactively slowed down the production (of the polymers). With the low freezing points, it would have been...
a mess if we did not have the steam engine from our cogeneration facility. We did, however, lose nitrogen from a pipeline. That was a big impact on us.”

No injuries were reported at Covestro during the winter storms, Zervoudis said.

“We had people that actually stayed for more than 48 hours,” he said. “They could have gone home, but they did not want to go home. We are so thankful to all of them. They took care of business and were super careful since there was ice everywhere.”

Zervoudis feels Gov. Greg Abbott should look more carefully into electricity and natural gas in preparation for a future winter storm.

“There really is no reason for the energy capital to run out of energy,” he said.

For the future, Zervoudis said they had assigned engineers to look into the more than 150 small incidents the plant experienced during the winter storms.

“We will literally go through every single one of those events and discover why it happened, what did we do well, what went wrong, what are we going to do to revise our policy and be better prepared,” he said. “If we have the same situation, we will know better next time.”
ExxonMobil’s Baytown Complex recently completed a major turnaround event that involved about 1.25 million work-hours and massive overhauls of the site’s three larger units—Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit 3, the Catalytic Light Ends Unit and the Alkylation Unit.

“This turnaround, which commenced early this year, was unique because it had a significant level of major equipment replacement. It is a once-every-30-years-type turnaround,” said Fuels South Event Manager Dena Jarski.

The three units involved in the turnaround are critically important to the reliability and profitability of the Baytown Refinery and the complex as a whole. These units together produce enough gasoline to fill approximately 170,000 vehicle tanks per day.

The scope of the event is reflected not only by the work-hours, but also by the investment by the corporation on maintenance and capital projects, which was more than $150 million. Also crucial to the project’s success was the participation and dedication of the BTCX process, mechanical, technical, and engineering departments, as well as the contractor workforce, which had a peak headcount of around 1,600. In addition, 14 critical lifts with the world’s largest crane were made, including the largest lift in BTCX history. Most importantly, the event was completed without any serious injuries.

“The Corporation chose to invest in Baytown and in Fuels South. In this market environment, this is strong commitment to our site,” Jarski said. “Our site is a strategic asset critical to the success and profitability of our Corporation.”

This event was a big success for ExxonMobil Baytown Complex and a massive undertaking with multiple teams working together simultaneously to complete the project safely and as efficiently as possible. “I am very proud of the outstanding efforts from our folks to get us to where we are today. The entire team spent much time and effort focusing on the right work scope in order to further improve the safety and performance of our facilities,” said Process Fuels South Department Head Teresa Cassar.

With all of the complications and constraints caused by the presence of COVID-19 in 2020, as well as the added complication of Winter Storm Uri in 2021, the success of this event has helped to set a positive tone for the year.

“Everyone’s hard work and dedication paid off and we are proud of the teamwork shown by the employees and contractors who supported this effort,” said BTCX Mechanical Manager Mike Creedon. “To have a project of this magnitude with continuous and overlapping work being done, and to come out the other side with no serious injuries, is really something that makes us all proud.”

During the turnaround event, fourteen critical lifts with the world’s largest crane were made, including the largest lift in ExxonMobil Baytown Complex history.
NRG’s Cedar Bayou 5 plant may soon be providing more power to energy customers thanks to the expansion of a fifth unit for generating power.

The plant currently has four units; one is retired. NRG has invested early engineering into the new unit, and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has issued an air permit. The new unit is expected to potentially create 600 construction jobs at its peak and 18 permanent jobs. The $500 million investment may go online as soon as 2024, the commercial operation date if adequate financial assurances can be determined.

David Freeman, NRG senior director project development, said the Cedar Bayou 5 project is an opportunity to “leverage several Baytown’s best aspects; industrial productivity but in concert with, and support of, the rich bayside environment.”

Since NRG is a customer-focused company, Freeman said the new unit provides many benefits to customers.

“We serve the electricity power needs of many customers across Texas,” Freeman said. “We are always in communication with our
clients to better understand their power needs whether it be for low cost, higher reliability, and increasingly renewable resources.”

Freeman said that by listening to customer’s needs, the plant fulfills these objectives in many ways.

“First, it is a new technology, so it is very efficient,” Freeman said. “It starts fast and can be shut down easily, so essentially when renewable, cheaper resources are not available to the Texas marketplace, we would fire it up in order to keep the lights on. Because it runs when it is dispatched, or told to run, when fuel supplies are arranged and delivered as opposed to being subject to the availability of wind power or the sun to create solar power, this is controllable. For that reason, these units tend to be reliable when called upon.”

Freeman said being located adjacent to Cedar Bayou is strategic.

“Most of the renewable resources are being built in regions remote from Houston, like West Texas,” Freeman said. “For reliability, having a resource we call upon when reliability events occur is advantageous since it is close to our customers. Cedar Bayou’s location in the Greater Houston area would provide reliability during those times. It is also close to where our customers are consuming power, which is further is associated with reliability.”

The new unit will have 730 megawatts of generation capacity, which translates into satisfying 730,000 homes during a typical Texas summer day.

“You can imagine that large of a power plant being close to Baytown,” Freeman said. “The geographical footprint of 730,000 customers is a pretty wide circle encompassing all of Baytown and surrounding communities.”

Freeman said one key advantage to Baytown is having the power plant within the proximity of the bayou along with water rights.

“Unlike many power plants in Texas that rely on freshwater and competing against residential freshwater means from reservoirs,” Freeman said. “This plant takes its cooling water from the bayou, which is a brackish, saltwater of a Gulf-associated source of water. It is not competing against the residential water aspect that many other power plants must. I think that is a contribution that Baytown should be proud of as we can create power in part by using water that doesn’t diminish the freshwater drinking needs the community has.”

Rob Kurelic, NRG Cedar Bayou Power Plant manager, highlighted to the Baytown-West Chambers County Economic Development Foundation that Unit 1 was commissioned 50 years ago in 1971. Kurelic said it was planned and built by “our” grandfathers 10 years before IBM introduced its first personal computer, the same year Texas Instruments introduced the first pocket calculator.

“But 50 years hence, Unit 1 continues to support critical electricity needs such as cooling, heating, and lighting of 770,000 nearby residents,” Freeman said. “Unit 1 has operated during intense summer heat for decades. Again, rather than compete for precious freshwater, the power plants at this site use nearly entirely brackish water from Cedar Bayou. Discharge water enables the EcoCenter partnership and feeds one of the best redfish habitats in the Gulf. We can be thankful and proud of our grandfathers’ decisions over 50 years ago.”

Freeman said the EcoCenter partnership is also connected to the water system.

“They are using some of the brackish water to stimulate the growth of wetlands reeds, and volunteer groups to come in and plant those around for wetlands restoration,” he said.

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ECOCENTER AT CEDAR BAYOU SAVING WETLANDS, ADVANCING EDUCATION

The EcoCenter at NRG’s Cedar Bayou station provides an unparalleled resource for Galveston Bay and the surrounding metropolitan area. The EcoCenter connects with organizations interested in a hands-on educational experience at its wetland plant nursery. The resource also focuses on enhancing biodiversity in threatened local ecosystems by growing native plant species. Contributions include shoreline erosion protection, dune vegetation, trees for colonial waterbird nesting, seeds for vegetative cover, prairie grasses for soil protection, and native vegetative cover using plants adapted to new climates. The EcoCenter actively works with the Galveston Bay Estuary Program and helps it reach its goals for biodiversity through the Galveston Bay Plan.

The center sits on 14 acres of land, with 24 earthen ponds, six above-ground constructed ponds, a greenhouse, a classroom and a laboratory.

Through a partnership with the Galveston Bay Foundation’s Get Hip to Habitat program, area schools participate in a hands-on science program that includes wetland plant harvest, grow-out, planting, and education.

Since 2008, around 100,000 plants were donated to area schools for the educational program. College students have also turned the EcoCenter into an annual spring break destination, as NRG hosts dozens of alternative spring breakers who help restore wetland habitats, all while learning about Texas’ wetland ecosystems.
The City of Baytown and Covestro have come together to advance sustainability in two Baytown parks. Residents and nature lovers throughout Baytown can now take a break in the shade while making use of solar energy to charge their portable devices.

Thanks to a generous donation from Covestro, one of the top employers in Baytown, two new solar-powered charging stations using state-of-the-art technology were unveiled April 6 with both City and Covestro leadership in attendance.

The solar-powered charging stations were installed at Jenkins Park and the Baytown Nature Center, near the Children’s Nature Discovery area.

“We are very thankful for the two solar-powered charging stations donated to the city by Covestro,” said Scott Johnson, director of Parks and Recreation at the City of Baytown. “Solar products provide clean, sustainable energy, and park patrons at Jenkins Park and the Baytown Nature Center now have a way to charge their mobile devices using solar energy.

Covestro has once again helped Baytown become a responsible steward of our environment while offering a much-needed amenity to our citizens.”

The benches, which are picnic table-style, feature a table with solar panel shade overhead, and can comfortably seat four people. Fully engineered and truly off-grid, the solar benches are equipped with a power design that delivers dependable year-round charging power, even on cloudy or overcast days. Visitors can use it to support charging phones, tablets, laptops, cameras, and other electronic devices.

Previously, Covestro helped promote sustainability in Baytown by donating Big Belly Recycling Bins and the “Clean Energy, Bright World” Mobile Sustainable Energy Exhibit.

“It’s an honor to continue to support the city in incorporating sustainable solutions to our community parks,” said Demetri Zervoudis, senior vice president and general site manager for Covestro Industrial Park Baytown.

“This opportunity was naturally a fit for Covestro because sustainability is a fundamental of our business strategy. Baytown has been home to Covestro for 50 years, and through innovative technologies, we are dedicated to fulfill our commitment to developing and implementing sustainable solutions.”

The city strives to continue collaborating with community partners to promote sustainability while providing amenities for Baytown citizens.
As a result of the freezing weather conditions brought on by winter storm Uri, coupled with the curtailment of natural gas supplies throughout the State of Texas, ExxonMobil safety ceased manufacturing and shut down or idled virtually all of its units across the Baytown area. Any units that remained in operation were dedicated to generating electricity to supply the grid and surrounding community or to generating the power necessary to keep its people, the community, and units safe. In fact, ExxonMobil’s power generation facilities provided as much as 200 megawatts of power to the grid, which is enough electricity to power approximately 100,000 homes.

Restarting operations is no small task and involves much coordination between sites. The Baytown Complex formed a Freeze Recovery Operations Support Team. Their incredible efforts in assessing the facilities after the cold temperatures enabled the sites to restart safely. During the three weeks that followed the freeze, 85 units were safely restarted.

“I’d like to thank our dedicated team who worked tirelessly to restart our facilities after the winter storm,” Baytown Refinery Manager Rohan Davis said. “Everyone rose to the challenge to safely get our facilities to normal operations to produce the fuels and petrochemical products that remain essential for everyday life.”

Even before the storm, ExxonMobil was preparing. All of its operating facilities have extensive freeze protection plans in place, and each site continuously updates and practices these plans to ensure readiness. The company also works closely with the City of Baytown and its office of Emergency Management, along with other local authorities, in preparation for all-weather events, including freezes and hurricanes.

Although ExxonMobil operations were affected by the winter storm, it did not hinder the company from supporting the community during this time. ExxonMobil donated 10,500 gallons of fuel to the city for its emergency responders, public works fleet and power water generation for the city. The company also donated non-perishable food items to Lee College students in need, provided a thank-you lunch to the city’s Public Works and Engineering Department, delivered two pallets of water to St. James House, and provided breakfast to frontline workers at Houston Methodist Hospital and teachers across the city as they returned to the classroom. Hearts and Hands also provided a $5,000 donation to assist with city food distributions.

“The Baytown community always rises to the challenge, and ExxonMobil is proud to support our community partners,” Davis said. “Together, we are indeed stronger.”
Pharmacist Jada Gilbert is the owner of Blue Ribbon Pharmacy, located inside the Food Town on N. Main at Rollingbrook Drive in Baytown. They have been in business since 2012, first at the Food Town near Decker Drive and since 2013 at their current location. She has been practicing pharmacy for nearly 30 years since 1992.

Blue Ribbon Pharmacy is open Monday through Friday 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. and offers free delivery service in the Baytown area, as they have been doing since the business opened. Most insurance plans are accepted. Blue Ribbon Pharmacy also offers a discount card for some prescriptions.

Gilbert is a graduate of Texas Southern University, married to Frederick Gilbert and together they have three sons, Jace, Jabari and Jamari.

Blue Ribbon Pharmacy is one of the local Black-owned-businesses recently spotlighted by the Black Owned Business Alliance, organized by Lee College Regent Gina Guillory.
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Now in its 32nd year, the Gator Ride has become a Baytown tradition. Chevron Phillips Chemical is the title sponsor of this local bike ride, donating $10,000 a year to offset expenses so that more proceeds go to support Baytown YMCA programming.

As a MS150 recommended ride, many cyclists throughout the Houston region participate annually. This year, course lengths were 33 or 53 miles, including a trek over the Fred Hartman Bridge; and a 5-mile family ride suitable for children. With over 300 riders participating this year, the event netted $19,743 for the YMCA Annual Campaign.

The YMCA Annual Campaign helps everyone, regardless of age, income or background, have the opportunity to learn, grow and thrive. Programs include child care, summer camps, swim lessons, sports leagues and assistance to various area outreach programs. Every dollar raised is an investment in the Baytown community.

“Sponsoring the Gator Ride and employee participation in events like this is part of Chevron Phillips’ community involvement strategy to support health and safety programs in the local community,” spokeswoman Heather Betancourt said. “We’ve been proud to be a part of this Baytown tradition for several years now and look forward to seeing the event grow in the future.”

Andrew Sharping, a mechanical engineer at Chevron Phillips in Baytown, zooms through the 53-mile course at the 2021 Baytown YMCA Gator Ride.
Lee College analytics technology and measurements students will receive hands-on training and be better prepared to successfully enter the workforce thanks to a generous donation from INEOS Olefins & Polymers USA.

In December, INEOS donated an analyzer shelter to Lee College for students who are actively learning about analyzer readings and process operations in the chemical plant industry. Lee College is the only college in the Houston area with a training facility of its kind.

“A motivated, well trained technical workforce is incumbent to safe and reliable operations of our facilities,” said Robert Bradshaw, site manager for the INEOS Battleground Manufacturing Complex in La Porte. “We at INEOS are proud to partner with Lee College to provide quality educational opportunities which lead to gainful employment for the next generation in our community.”

Most modern chemical plants use analyzer shelters to provide a controlled environment to test and control end products. The analyzer shelter is a container-type structure that protects the measurement components from adverse conditions that can affect analyzer readings.

“Lee College is excited to enhance our analytical program with the donation from INEOS that allows real-world preparation and hands-on exposure to the actual equipment students will encounter while working in the field,” said Marsha Tuha, executive director of Lee College’s Center for Workforce and Community Development. “When hiring Lee College graduates, employers can be confident their employees received thorough high-quality training because of resources like the analyzer shelter.”

The analyzer shelter at Lee College will accommodate the components necessary to teach analyzer technology in a real-world setting. Several high demand classes will use the analyzer shelter, including:

- 16-hour Analyzer Troubleshooting
- 40-hour Introduction to Analyzer training
- Introduction to Sample Systems
- Chromatography

Lee College’s Advanced Technical Training Center offers fast-track courses and customized programs for nearly every industry. To learn more about the analytics technology and measurements and other high-demand degrees and certificate programs enrolling now, go to www.lee.edu/workforce.
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We’re here to support our community.
Members of Hardin County Emergency Services District #5 visited Chevron Phillips Chemical’s Baytown facility March 12 to accept donation of the plant’s Ladder 10 fire apparatus. A week later, its capabilities were put to use to bring an active fire under control in Sour Lake, just over 20 miles northwest of Beaumont.

“We are so grateful for this donation,” said Steve Derbyshire, fire battalion chief for Hardin County ESD #5. “This ladder truck will give us the ability to provide elevated rescue and master stream deployment if and when we need it. It will also allow us to advance our fire and rescue capabilities as we respond to everything from house fires to confined space high-angle rescue.”

Derbyshire said the Hardin County region has recently experienced significant growth in storefront businesses and apartment complex construction. In addition, the region has seen more than 20 large above-ground petroleum storage tanks and a half dozen underground caverns built.

“Before this donation, we were equipment-taxed and underprepared,” he said. “We are blessed that your generosity found us. Thank you for giving to our community. We are truly safer.”

Ladder 10 had been with the Baytown facility since 1995. Originally $500,000, this emergency response vehicle would cost $1.9 million to replace today.
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10 THINGS YOU DIDN’T KNOW ABOUT TOM KELCHNER

1. I believe in the “I am Third” philosophy: God is first, my Family and Friends second and I am Third.
2. I am blessed to have an incredible, beautiful wife, Laura, who is Director of Information Systems for Goose Creek CISD (and who puts up with me!). Laura and I live in Huffman with our rescue rot/pit/boxer mix, Bentley; and our Great Dane, Wadu. We are incredibly blessed to be associated with everyone in the Greater Baytown/Southeast Texas region. I inherited two awesome sons when Laura and I got together: Travis Allen is a US Marine now stationed in Okinawa with our daughter-in-law, Gemma; and our 2 year old granddaughter, Arya. Tyler Allen is an underwriter/credit analyst for the Credit Union of Texas; he lives in the Dallas area with his fiancé, Courtney.
3. I have a bachelor’s degree from Texas Christian University; a Master of Science degree in Special Education from the University of Texas at Dallas; and Master of Education and Doctor of Education degrees from the University of North Texas. (I almost missed earning my doctorate…ask me about this.)
4. I served for 33 years in public education before retiring in 2016 to go into private business ventures umbrellaed under the Empowered Network.
5. My educational experience includes elementary, middle and high school principalships as well as executive director/director positions leading special education departments in Dallas and Goose Creek. I still run into former students all the time. My son, Tyler, observed “and they actually like you!”.
6. One of my best memories as an elementary school principal was a beautiful little kindergarten student saying to me, “You are the best principal that I have ever had.” I responded with, “Thank you, baby…but I am the ONLY principal that you have ever had!”.
7. During my time at TCU, I was a nationally ranked collegiate powerlifter. (I have pictures for those who do not believe me.)
8. I am extremely proud to serve as the 93rd president of the Rotary Club of Baytown; board chair for the Bay Area Rehabilitation Center; and, as a member of the Hands of Healing Residential Center board; Junior Achievement of the Golden Triangle Board and the GCCISD Digital Communications Advisory Board. And currently I am working with an incredible group of people as the project development manager for the East Harris County Navigation Center for the Homeless to be located in Baytown.
9. I love to cook (and unfortunately love my own cooking!). Specialties includes breakfast dishes, steaks and hors d’oeuvres.
While the presence of COVID-19 made the ExxonMobil Baytown Area United Way campaign challenging, it did not stop it from moving forward. The 2020 United Way campaign was a success. The campaign kicked off in September and while things looked a little different this time around, ExxonMobil Baytown Area managed to complete a successful year of activities to raise money for various nonprofit agencies and programs that directly benefit the community despite the pandemic.

COVID-19 left a lot of things uncertain and increased assistance needs in the community. The safety of employees and fellow community members remained a top priority which meant face-to-face events were not possible. In order to ensure the campaign was a success even during these challenging times, ExxonMobil’s volunteers were tasked with brainstorming new ways of volunteering. Participants never lost sight of what the campaign was all about and made sure they were there to help support the crucial needs of our neighbors and community.

“For over 75 years we have supported the United Way and the success of our community. 2020’s campaign was focused on sharing how each individual’s donations and volunteer hours made a huge impact in our Baytown community, as well as ensuring we were able to find creative ways to account for this year’s challenges” said Baytown Refinery Title V advisor and 2020 United Way Campaign Chair Allison Korenek.

Despite these difficulties and thanks to the dedication and adaptability of ExxonMobil’s employees, the 2020 Campaign raised approximately $1.35 million that will be directly invested in the local community!

“This campaign is successful because of the willingness of our employees to support the United Way of Greater Baytown Area and Chambers County and the volunteer efforts to help meet the crucial needs of our neighbors,” Korenek said.
DUNA-USA has begun a new stage of its multiyear expansion plan, designed to optimize efficiency and further reduce lead times. This is the third chapter in three years for DUNA’s Baytown, facility on FM 1405, and is part of the company’s long-term growth initiative.

Planned plant improvements include an automated system for cutting and loading CORAFOAM blocks to reduce fabrication time and manual handling. The investment also includes new processing equipment for producing low-density composite core panels. Perfectly square panels with high tolerances represent the response of DUNA-USA to the increasing demand for high-quality performing boards within the composite core market. Automated packaging machinery is also planned to be implemented with the main purpose to assure total quality management till delivery at client location. This is also aimed to accelerate the process and eliminate material damages from manual handling, while enabling better packaging with less plastics in accordance with the company’s sustainability program.

To accommodate the new equipment, the existing premises have been increased by almost 9,000 square feet and the laydown yard has been extended with new paving by almost 1.5 acres.

“We’re introducing new equipment and technology to confirm our commitment to continuous improvement,” Andrea Benedetti, CEO of DUNA-USA, said. “We are very excited to see DUNA-USA’s footprint expanding in North America and look forward to achieving improved efficiency and further benefits for our customers.”

Construction began this year and is expected to be completed by the fall. This expansion follows major previous updates including a land purchase, new building construction and company-wide ISO-9001 certification for both US plants in Baytown and Ludington, Michigan, in 2019.

“2020 was a demanding year and 2021 looks pretty challenging too, Marta Brozzi, president and CEO of the group, said. “The sole effect of this on our growth plan is to strengthen our determination towards investments in new technologies, quality, knowledge and safety for each location of the group including the plants in North America.”

With multiple product lines including CORAFOAM polyurethane and polyisocyanurate foams, DUNAPOL systems and the CORINTHO product range, DUNA-USA services a broad market including insulation, LNG, aerospace, automotive, architectural, aviation and signage industries.

The DUNA Group, comprised of DUNA-CORRADINI, DUNA-USA, and DUNA-EMIRATES, has been engineering and manufacturing customized, high-quality polyurethane foams, systems, adhesives and epoxy resins since 1957.
2021 CITIZEN OF THE YEAR FINALISTS

Citizen of the Year Finalist Kim Elswick is presented her award by Baytown Sun Publisher Carol Skewes.
photo by Jim Wadzinski

Citizen of the Year Finalists Nikki Rincon and Harvey Oyler receive their awards from Sun Managing Editor David Bloom.
photo by Carol Skewes

The late David “Dave” Beltram was named a finalist for Citizen of the Year. His friend, Eloy Valdes, will accept the award for Mr. Beltram’s family.

Sun Publisher Carol Skewes presents Citizen of the Year Finalist David Weber his award.
photo by Kathy Clausen
Daryl Fontenot receives an award from Baytown Sun Publisher Carol Skewes in recognition of his being named the 2021 Citizen of the Year. The Sun asks for nominations each January and then Past Citizens of the Year meet to review the nominations based on selfless service to others. A copy of the framed award for each Citizen of the Year hangs inside The Baytown Sun.
The forum introduced candidates for Goose Creek CISD Board of Trustees and Lee College Board of Regents. It was sponsored by community members Jacqueline Whitaker, Gina Guillory and Susan Cummings in participation with a Legislative Affairs initiative of the Baytown Chapter of Top Ladies of Distinction.

Baytown City Councilwoman Laura Alvarado (District 1) and event sponsor Jaqueline Whitaker

Photos by Bridgett Tucker
From left: Susan Moore Fontenot, Mary Sims, Judy Hunter, Lakesha Harris Holmes, Saundra Davis and Chanthena Roberson. Not in the photo, but present, were Bertha Harris and Dena Taylor.
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Blinds • Shutters • Shades • Drapes • Home Automation

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This special, keepsake section will allow your ad to be seen repeatedly. Local graduating seniors will be featured with individual photographs from Goose Creek CISD, Barbers Hill ISD, Anahuac ISD and Baytown Christian Academy. Families will hold on to this commemorative edition for a long time. These grads deserve a lot since the coronavirus pandemic took away the end of their school year and many of their celebratory events.

Call today 281-422-8302

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When you see something at an independent store that costs a little more, try to remember that most major online retailers don’t buy ads in the local football program.

Big box stores won’t donate prizes to your silent auction and don’t have kids playing little league in your community.

Small business owners DO and they offer better customer service because they do it face to face.
THE MANE EVENT

Bay Area Homeless Services benefit
roasting Police Chief Keith Dougherty

Bay Area Homeless Services Past Client Jessica Goyles and Executive Director Bill Eckert

Baytown Mayor Brandon Capetillo, his wife Blanca Capetillo and retired Police Chief Keith Dougherty

Baytown Mayor Brandon Capetillo claims this is retired Police Chief Keith Dougherty’s first duty belt, complete with donuts.

Laura and Tom Kelchner

Board Member Jim Wadzinski and Auctioneer Keith Fitzgerald

Margine Somoza and Rene Hinojosa

Former Mayor Pete Alfaro and his wife, Lupe Alfaro

Debbie Palko, Stacey Palko, Steven Palko, BAHS Board Member Bill Palko, Judge Lucia Bates and Robert Bates

photos by Carol Skewes
Baytown Fire Chief Kenneth Dobson roasts Police Chief Keith Dougherty upon his retirement to benefit Bay Area Homeless Services.

City Manager Rick Davis was the second to roast retiring Chief Keith Dougherty.

Chief Keith Dougherty adjusts his crown.

Greater Baytown - April 2021
BAYTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
CHAIRMANS GALA

Ambassador of the Year Pattye Webb, of Bates Collision, and Past Chair Gilbert Santana

Holly Jackson presents Allene DonCarlos roses for her support of Stephen DonCarlos.

Stephen DonCarlos and his wife, Allene DonCarlos

Chambers County Sheriff Brian C. Hawthorne, Baytown Chamber Chair Holly Jackson and her sister, Chambers County Clerk Heather Hawthorne

Incoming Chair Holly Jackson and outgoing Chair Stephen DonCarlos

Stephen DonCarlos makes his quick exit leaving the Baytown Chamber of Commerce in good hands with Holly Jackson.

photos by Carol Skewes
Stephen DonCarlos has been chairman of the Baytown Chamber of Commerce Board for two years. He is now handing over command to incoming Chairwoman Holly Jackson.
Making a difference – right here in Baytown and Mont Belvieu

While COVID-19 posed numerous challenges for face-to-face volunteering, our employees continued to find ways to safely lend a hand in our community. Baytown Area employees volunteer thousands of hours in support of more than 200 local non-profit organizations in the community. Whether we are assisting United Way agencies through virtual Days of Caring, joining together with community members to serve at Hearts and Hands of Baytown, or reading to students from local elementary schools through our Partners in Education Virtual Bookworm Club program, giving back to our community is a core value.