

STORM

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nesses and residents within the city.

Outside contractors were called in to assist in isolated situations where there were trees and poles downed. They also helped in constructing new poles.

By mid-afternoon Thursday, the city had power with the exception of a few with extensive damage.

"It was a citywide effort and certainly the electric crew was front and center, but they couldn't even begin to get out to make repairs until the streets were cleared," Sutton said. "Particularly in the western and

northern portion, we had trees down across the road. Everyone helped to assist to get the streets cleared or at least passable. That was done in less than two hours. City crews have done a remarkable job in restoring service in a timely manner and under safe conditions. We appreciate the cooperation of the public working with us."

City crews will be working daily, instead of just Friday, with brush collection. They will pick up every day for what is curbside to help the clean up process. There are still trees down at Pedigo Park, but those will be put on hold, with focus going to residential areas.

CHI

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services each year and has a longstanding history of providing quality, innovative health care in East Texas.

With hospitals in Lufkin, Livingston, San Augustine and Memorial Specialty - the area's only long-term acute care hospital- CHI St. Luke's Health Memorial provides millions of dollars in charity care and community support each year.

Memorial offers a wide array of services, including the area's first dedicated heart and stroke care facility and radiation oncology at the Temple Cancer Center. It is also known for the area's only comprehensive diabetes, heart and stroke education center. Other specialty areas include imaging, orthopedic care, women's services, inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation, homecare, wound care and hyperbaric oxygen therapy, kidney & diabetes treatment, sleep disorders treatment and express lab.

The hospital invested \$1.6 million in superior imaging technology. Expanding the hospital's inpatient diagnostic capabilities enables CHI St. Luke's Health Memorial to offer high-quality services and deliver cost-effective care to area patients. The imaging department provides MRI, CT scan, nuclear medicine scans, 4D ultrasound, cardiac echocardiograms, fluoroscopy, bone density scanning and digital mammography.

Memorial Clinics, a division of the health system, employs more than 30 providers in 17 locations across East Texas. Specialties include family practice, obstetrics and gynecology, cardiology, cardiovascular and thoracic surgery, internal medicine, physical medicine & rehabilitation, allergy/otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat) and chiropractic care.

The 66-bed hospital provides more than 60,000 patient services each year, with half of those services offered in the Level 4 Trauma-designated Emergency Department.

I-14

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with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to review elements of the existing highway to confirm they meet interstate highway design standards. That review is expected to be complete later this year. Once authorized by FHWA, the final designation can be approved by the Texas Transportation Commission and I-14 signs can be added to the highway and to directional signage on Interstate 35 and other intersecting roadways.

The federal highway bill approved by Congress last year designated the Central Texas Corridor and established it as future Interstate 14.

The congressionally designated corridor generally follows the route of U.S. 190 across the state running from I-10 in West Texas to Fort Hood at Killeen and east through Belton, Bryan/College Station, Huntsville, Livingston, Woodville and Jasper before terminating at

the Sabine River near Fort Polk.

John Thompson, former Polk County judge and board chairman of the Gulf Coast Strategic Highway Coalition, said, "We want to thank the Transportation Commission for being our partner in this effort to make Interstate 14 across Texas a reality."

"We look forward to continuing to work together on planning, funding and constructing additional upgraded sections of the entire Strategic Highway System which will eventually provide improved connections to I-35, I-45, I-69, I-37, I-10 and I-20," Thompson added.

Major Gen. Kendall Cox, U.S. Army (ret), executive director of the Heart of Texas Defense Alliance supporting Fort Hood, said that the future interstate and other improvements supported by the Gulf Coast Strategic Highway Coalition to connect Army facilities to strategic seaports will create additional military value that is essential to the continued viability of the state's military installations.

Local woman helping Houston flood victims

BY LINDA W PERKINS
Special to the Enterprise

HOUSTON – When retired teacher and Livingston resident Sylvia Ortiz says she believes in going the extra mile to help others, she means it. And this past week, she proved that mileage marker doesn't stop at one.

Ortiz was standing in the middle of a large room at the Community of Faith Church youth center, 75 miles from home - in Houston - surrounded by a sea of clothes. She has been sorting them into piles, based on size, for five days. When she arrived on Friday, April 22, Ortiz had planned on staying in Houston just overnight, but now isn't sure exactly when she will return.

"I came here just to drop off a donation, but when I brought my bags in and saw all of this, I just couldn't leave. I wanted to help," she said, pointing to where she had signed in as a volunteer.

The Community of Faith Church, located in the hard-hit community of Acres Homes, is one of the donation drop-off and distribution sites being utilized by the Red Cross to provide relief to area residents affected by recent flooding in the Houston area. It is also a central point of coordination for a city-wide, faith-based initiative called H-Town Cares.

Bishop James Dixon II, senior pastor at The Community of Faith and co-founder of H-Town Cares, said this is the first city-wide disaster recovery effort he has seen in the Houston faith community, one that crosses both racial and religious lines. And unlike some other efforts, he said, they are in it for the long haul.

"Long after the weather forecast changes, when there is no storm in sight, the storm is still raging for victims," Dixon said. "That's what makes a site like this of grave importance."

According to Bishop Shel-

ton Bady of Harvest Time Church, the coordinated efforts of H-Town Cares helped them feed 10,000 people following the flood, and yet there is still more need in the community than they can fill on a daily basis.

"We have had truckloads of supplies brought in every day, and every day we have run out," Bady said at a meeting with Houston area pastors and Mayor Sylvester Turner. "You could bring 10 trucks in today, and tomorrow it would all be gone."

Ortiz said it is easy to feel overwhelmed when looking at options of where to help in a disaster as widespread as this. In her case, a Google search took her to where she ultimately felt God wanted her to be.

"I kept thinking that I have everything I need, and here all these people just need help," she said. "It doesn't matter who you are or where you are. Just jump in."



PHOTO BY LINDA PERKINS


HELPING HANDS – Sylvia Ortiz stands amid a sea of clothing at the Community of Faith Church in Houston following the April floods.

MAIN STREET

FARMERS MARKET

Once again Main Street is hosting the Farmers Market in Downtown Anniversary Park. The first date will be Saturday, May 21. If you would like to be a vendor, call the Main Street office at 936 327 1050.


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