

# Harrison County lands \$400M project

Battery energy storage facility planned to be built on 42 acres

By News Messenger Staff

Peregrine Energy Solutions has announced it

will build a battery energy storage facility on 42 acres near the intersection of FM 3251 and Fyffe Cutoff in Harrison County. The \$400 million project is one of the largest private investments in the county's history, according to Marshall Economic Development. "These units will store and release electricity to support the Texas – Southwest Power Pool grid, help-

ing ensure reliable power during times of high demand," Marshall Economic Development said in a statement. "Construction is expected to begin before the end of 2027, with operations starting in 2028. The project will also provide specialized fire safety training for local first responders, ensuring the community is well-prepared to manage the new

technologies safely." Harrison County Judge Chad Sims said families and businesses will directly benefit from the project. "This isn't just about advanced energy storage," he said. "It's about strengthening our community, supporting schools and teachers, ensuring reliable infrastructure, and creating new opportunities for growth right here at home."

Although the project is outside the Marshall city limits, the property tax contributions from Peregrine's investment will support Marshall ISD teachers, technology and student opportunities, Marshall Economic Development said. "As a school district, we know that strong communities and strong schools go hand in hand," said Dr. Richele Langley, superin-

tendent of Marshall ISD. "The additional revenue from this investment will allow us to continue improving educational opportunities for our students, preparing them for successful futures in college, careers, and citizenship." Over the past decade, Texas has seen a population growth of 16% to 19%. See PEREGRINE, Page 2A

# ‘YOU DON’T WANNA DRINK IT’

Persistent water quality issues plague residents of Marion County neighborhood

BY LIA PORTILLO  
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JEFFERSON – Just a few years after permanently moving into his Marion County vacation home, poor water quality forced Karsten Kress to create a rainwater collection system. Water that falls on his metal roof is diverted into pipes where it gathers in tanks placed around his house. "So the rain will drop in here, and then it'll travel down there," Kress said recently as he gave a tour of his water system, pointing to a tank. He said neither he nor his wife, Michaela, drink the water supplied by provider Aqua Texas. The collected rainwater is used for drinking, cooking, brushing their teeth and is even given to the couple's dogs, chickens and other animals. "I mean, if you've seen this water one time, you don't wanna drink it," Kress said. For Kress and his neighbors in Marion County's Crestwood neighborhood, poor water quality is just a fact of life. Low pressure,



Karsten Kress shows the rainwater collection system he installed at his home in the Crestwood neighborhood in Marion County. Kress says consistent poor water quality forces him to use rainwater to drink, cook with and more. (Lia Portillo/Marshall News Messenger)

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