

# HOUSTON CHRONICLE

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## PIPELINES



JAMES NIELSEN : CHRONICLE

Thousands of miles of pipelines crisscross the Gulf Coast carrying volatile fuels, oil and gas. But **NOBODY SEEMS TO KNOW EXACTLY WHERE THEY ARE LOCATED.**

# What lies beneath

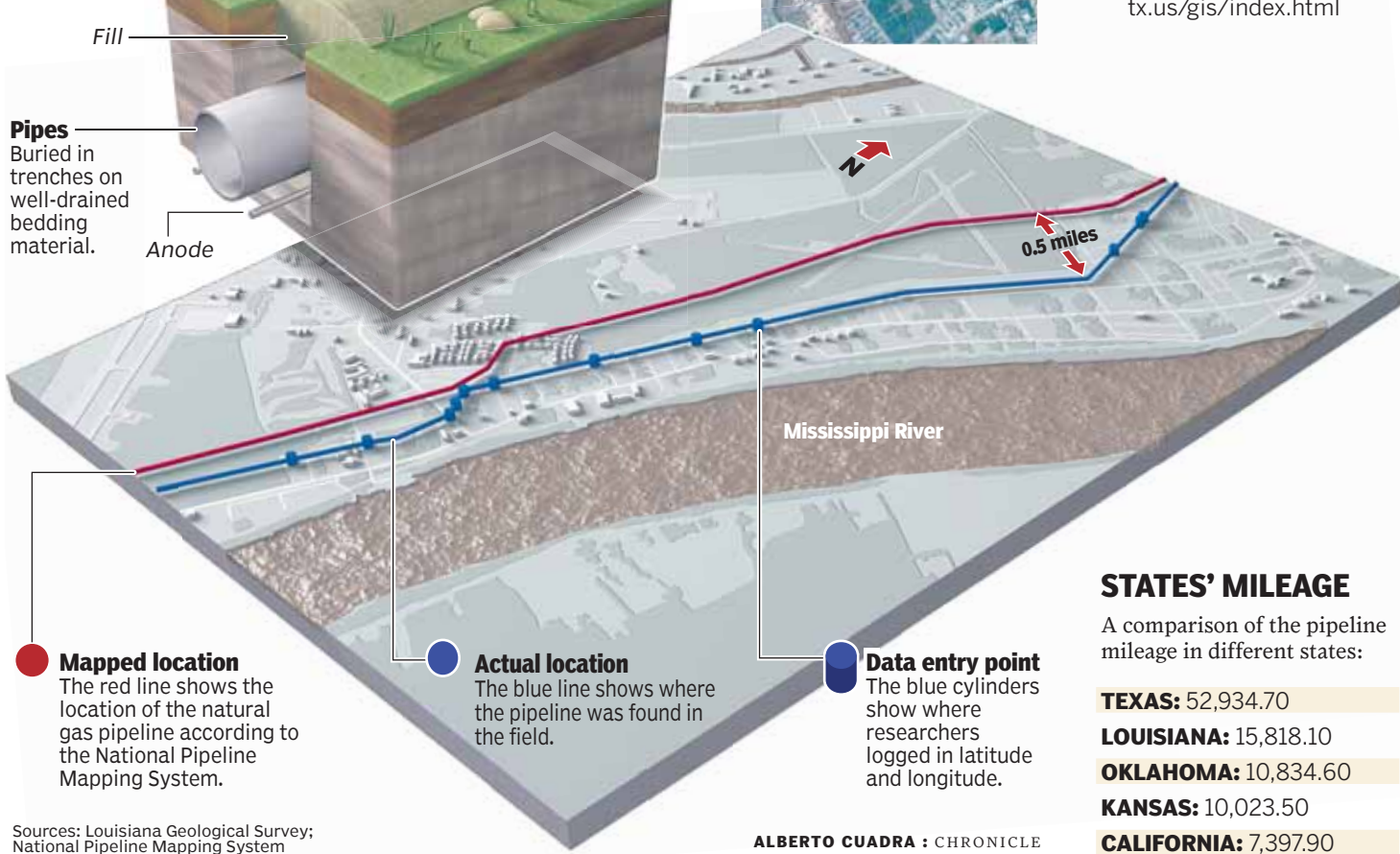
### PIPELINES OUT OF POSITION

While all pipelines in the National Pipeline Mapping System are supposed to be within 500 feet of their actual location, researchers in Louisiana have found them more than a half-mile out of place, like the example below. That error since has been fixed.

### Pipelines from the ground up

#### Witness posts

Researchers take down the latitude and longitude of posts connecting them to make a map.



Sources: Louisiana Geological Survey; National Pipeline Mapping System

### Area of study

The researchers have mapped 15 of Louisiana's 64 parishes. Below is an example from a parish south of New Orleans.



### ON THE WEB

For more information on pipelines and the federal mapping system, or to find pipelines in Texas, log onto the following Web sites:

**National Pipeline Mapping System:** www.npms.rspa.dot.gov

**General information on pipelines:** www.pipeline101.com

**To map pipelines in Texas:** www.rrc.state.tx.us/gis/index.html

### STATES' MILEAGE

A comparison of the pipeline mileage in different states:

<b>TEXAS:</b> 52,934.70
<b>LOUISIANA:</b> 15,818.10
<b>OKLAHOMA:</b> 10,834.60
<b>KANSAS:</b> 10,023.50
<b>CALIFORNIA:</b> 7,397.90

By **DINA CAPIELLO**  
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

**O**N THE CALCASIEU RIVER, LA. — The state-issued Boston Whaler plowed through the beer-bottle-brown Calcasieu River, stirring the calm waters that concealed what coursed below.

From their boat, John Snead and Robert Paulsell were tracking Louisiana's man-made rivers of commerce: the thousands of miles of pipeline that crisscross the state

**Nowhere is the problem more acute than in Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas, home to the most extensive and oldest pipeline networks in the nation.**

transporting fuel, oil and natural gas mined and refined along the Gulf Coast to distant gas stations and homes.

The two men, mapmakers with the Louisiana Geological Survey, knew the pipelines were down there. They just

weren't sure where.

"A map of pipelines in Louisiana looks like a web made by a spider on LSD," Snead said.

The problem is that Louisiana — like many other states, including Texas —

doesn't know exactly where all its pipelines are. And the federal government, which is supposed to keep maps of pipelines crossing state lines nationwide, may not be much help, a Houston Chronicle review shows.

Interviews with safety officials in nine states, home to more than 100,000 miles of buried pipe, reveal huge differences in the accuracy of maps relied on by emergency responders and, in some cases, by urban planners deciding

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## BATTLE FOR THE MLS CUP



### Let's go Dynamo

We preview today's MLS Cup in Frisco and outline the Dynamo's keys to bringing home the championship.

FOUR-PAGE PULLOUT IN SECTION C



## HOW THE HAMMER FELL ON HIS OWN PARTY

The iron hand of **TOM DeLay** built a GOP empire — and may have contributed to its undoing

By **BENNETT ROTH** and **MICHAEL HEDGES**  
WASHINGTON BUREAU

**WASHINGTON** — The legacy of the once powerful Republican Tom DeLay of Sugar Land cast a long shadow over last week's elections, in which voters shrank the ranks of a party accused of being too partisan, too cozy with special interests and too fond of big spending.

As majority whip and later majority leader of the House, DeLay helped build a Republican political empire that he tried to make immune from erosion by pushing the 2003 Texas redistricting plan that threw several veteran House Democrats out of office.

For years the former pest exterminator ruled with an iron hand that brought his party legislative victories but also intensified the poisonous partisan mood in Washington.

DeLay's combative style indeed was one of the factors in turning the electorate away from the GOP, said Ross Baker, a political scientist at Rutgers University.

"I don't think Tom DeLay as an individual was in the minds of many voters. But the election was very much a reaction to the kind of bare-knuckles politics he practiced," Baker said. "People thought this ex-

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### Democratic battle cry

**SEN. HARRY REID**, the Nevada Democrat poised to become the majority leader, is among the congressional Democrats who intend to push legislation this week to resurrect a federal agency in charge of eliminating waste and corruption in Iraq and greatly increase its oversight.

STORY ON PAGE A6



### Under new management

**REP. CHARLES RANGEL**, D-N.Y., will take the reins of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, which writes tax policy and oversees major federal entitlement programs, when chairmanships of key panels fall into Democratic hands.

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NICK de la TORRE : CHRONICLE

## In tune with Aggie pride

**T**EXAS A&M University President and defense secretary nominee Robert Gates, center, joins Corps of Cadets members in *The Aggie War Hymn* at the A&M-Nebraska matchup Saturday in College Station. Gates long has had a close relationship with the corps, once saying he came to A&M in large part because of the famous military training group.

## Houston artists have been scattering from the traditional enclaves

By **PATRICIA C. JOHNSON**  
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Painter Pat Colville was working in a Brooklyn loft, but two years ago, when looking for a place to live part of the year, she bought a 2-acre farm in northwest Houston, on the edge of Acres Homes. There's a chicken coop on the property and a horse her son tends.

She expected to be the only artist in the neighborhood. But she was wrong. She had, in fact, landed in Houston's newest art enclave.

In Houston, artists do what artists everywhere have done for centuries: revitalize neglected areas by revamping cheap old buildings and warehouses to use as housing and studio space.

But rising property values



STEVE CAMPBELL : CHRONICLE

**STILL LIFE:** Pieces of art and old cars dot the landscape at "Itchy Acres," an enclave in northwest Houston.

## AN ARTISTIC MOVEMENT

have begun to drive them from close-in neighborhoods. Now, they're building brand-new metal houses and studios outside the Loop.

That movement is most visible north of Loop 610 and west of Interstate 45 in wooded, historically black neighborhoods such as Acres Homes and Inde-

pendence Heights. Some of Houston's best-known artists either already live and work there or have bought property with plans to build. The roster includes The

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## COLLEGE FOOTBALL

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UH QB KEVIN KOLB

## SPORTS

**UH and Rice win on road; UT falls**  
Cougars clinch berth in C-USA title game with win, while Kansas State shocks the Horns 45-42. **PAGE F1**

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