

WHAT WE'RE ASKING IN THE WAKE OF IKE

HOW BAD WAS MY TOWN HIT?
PAGE 3A

WHEN WILL SCHOOLS RE-OPEN?
PAGE 3A

HOW ARE EVACUEES FARING?
PAGE 2A

ACTS OF COURAGE OR IDIOCY?
OPINION, 6A

WHAT IS OVERALL DAMAGE?
PAGE 3A

WHAT DOES COUNTY LOOK LIKE?
PAGE 12A

NOW WHAT?



DAN DALSTRA/The Facts

The steeple at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Lake Jackson was ripped off the roof and pierced the window into the sanctuary when winds from Hurricane Ike blew through.

Officials warn residents to stay away for now

By John Tompkins and John Lowman

news@thefacts.com

ANGLETON — As police officers pulled people over and asked what they were doing on the streets and some firefighters prevented people from going inside city limits, officials advised Saturday that residents who evacuated should stay away until electricity and emergency services are restored.

After Hurricane Ike knocked electricity off in most every area south of FM 1462, it could be two weeks for electricity officials can get the power back on, said Steve Rosa, Brazoria County assistant emergency management coordinator.

"It could be days before there's power," Rosa said.

Without power, it severely limits other needed services such as water, sewer, fuel and food, he said.

"Take the weekend off," and stay where those services are already available, Rosa said.

Most cities in Brazoria County, with the exception of Brazoria, West Columbia and Manvel, restricted access Saturday after the storm, even to those who lived in the city, Rosa said.

Firefighters in Clute turned away people trying to enter Saturday morning, saying officials were assessing the damage to the city before people were allowed in.

In Angleton, a police officer pulled over a Facts reporter and photographer and asked why they were driving on the streets.

There were some people burglarizing homes in the county, but several people who reported homes being broken into turned out to be incorrect, Brazoria County Sheriff's Capt. Randy Rhyne said.

That could change once evacuees start

■ See **NOW**, Page 8A



DAN DALSTRA/The Facts

Beach Drive sits covered with debris after Hurricane Ike laid waste to Surfside Beach late Friday and early Saturday.

Power line repairs to take time

By Erin McKeon

erin.mckeon@thefacts.com

About 2.1 million of CenterPoint Energy's 2.26 million customers in greater Houston were without power late Saturday morning, and it could take weeks for all of those customers to have their power restored, company spokeswoman Alicia Dixon said.

"The impact of Hurricane Ike on our service territory has been extensive and widespread, affecting more than 90 percent of our customers, which is the largest power outage event in our company's more than 120-year history," Division Senior Vice President of CenterPoint Energy's Electric Operations, Kenny Mercado said in a prepared press release.

More than 7,000 mutual

■ See **POWER**, Page 5A



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

The main welcome sign to Brazosport High School lies on the ground Saturday morning after being blown off its foundation by Hurricane Ike.

Surfside, Freeport take brunt of storm

By John Lowman and Nathaniel Lukefahr

news@thefacts.com

Sixty Surfside Beach homes are "devastational dust on the ground," and the village has no water, sewer or access to fuel, Police Chief Randy Smith said during a conference call Saturday evening.

Hurricane Ike pushed between 8 and 13 feet of water onto the island Friday night and Saturday morning, destroying homes and infrastructure and spreading debris across the island. Residents were not allowed into the village Saturday, Smith said.

"Our roads are not passable," Smith said. "Surfside is not open. The only people allowed on the island are

■ See **WORST**, Page 2A



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

Ray Wilkinson sits on the porch of his Surfside Beach home Saturday afternoon shortly after the worst of Hurricane Ike left the area. Wilkinson said he remained on his porch and watched even through the worst of the storm.

Surfside holdout 'stupid' for staying

By Nathaniel Lukefahr

nathaniel.lukefahr@thefacts.com

SURFSIDE BEACH — Ray Wilkinson leaned back in his patio chair Saturday atop the second-story apartment complex, a few rows from the surf crashing against the battered remains of other homes on Surfside Beach.

He took a drag from a cigarette and gave a simple summary of his night withstanding 100 mph winds and almost 20-foot storm surge of Hurricane Ike that besieged the island overnight Friday.

"I'm stupid," he said. "I had a front-row for Hurricane Ike, but I'm stupid."

The 67-year old Wilkinson had planned to leave the island early Friday with a neighbor when

■ See **STAYING**, Page 8A

WEATHER

LOCAL FORECAST

Monday: Mostly cloudy. Tuesday: Mostly sunny. Wednesday: Mostly sunny.

WEATHER ALMANAC

Readings taken at 6 p.m. daily at the Brazoria County Airport. Yesterday's high/low 87/78. Average high/low xx/xx.

GULF FORECAST

Today: SOUTHWEST WINDS 5 TO 10 KNOTS. SEAS 4 TO 6 FEET.

AROUND TEXAS

Temperatures indicate yesterday's high and overnight low to 7 p.m.

AROUND THE NATION

Temperatures indicate yesterday's high and overnight low to 7 p.m.

HISTORY

By The Associated Press. Today is Sunday, Sept. 14, the 258th day of 2008.

Deaths & Funerals

Obituaries are a paid feature of The Facts.



Andrew Stephen Reiser Jr.

Andrew Stephen Reiser Jr. died on Sunday, September 7, 2008, at the age of 61. He was born in Luling, Texas, on June 29, 1947, to Andy and Doris Reiser.

Steve was a lieutenant with the Brazoria County Sheriff's Department.

He is survived by his wife, Belva Davis Reiser of Angleton; mother, Doris Reiser of Victoria; brother, Raymond Reiser of Key West, Florida; nephew, Scott Reiser of Keller, Texas; mother-in-law, Edith Allred of Lake Jackson; stepchildren, Debi and Randy Ver Ploeg of The Woodlands, Texas, Shari and John Lively of Brazoria and Ricky Davis of Brazoria; stepgrandchildren, Tori and Eric Ver Ploeg, Jake and Victoria Pirtle, Ashley Duke, Craig Duke, Shannon Lively, Brittany Lively, Devin and Erin Davis and Samantha Davis; stepgreat-grandchildren, Lily Pirtle and Christian Davis.

Steve's school years were spent in Victoria and after graduation from Victoria High School, he enlisted in the Air Force where worked on the "black phantom" reconnaissance plane, the SR 71. He was accepted by the Houston Police Department and served 20 years, reaching the rank of Detective Sergeant.

Steve was a leader his entire life. He was a loyal and generous friend to many. He was admired and respected as a law enforcement officer in Harris and Brazoria counties. He loved his family and his family loved and depended on him. He will be missed by his family and friends.

A memorial service will be at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 20, 2008, at Temple Baptist Church in Clute, Texas. In lieu of flowers please make donations to the Brazoria County Peace Officers Association, P.O. Box 323 Angleton, Texas 77516.

Evacuees itching to get home

By Erin McKeon erin.mckeon@thefacts.com

BELTON — A television with the volume cranked up to drown out constant chatter and occasional cries from children at shelters in Bell County never went unwatched.

Evacuees said Saturday morning they devour what little snippets of information they receive from local news about their home. It wasn't until later many of them found out their shelter would be home for the next few days at least.

"It was showing Surfside, they would say something about Surfside then say something about Lake Jackson, but they don't show anything but just little parts though," said Cynthia Davis, who is from Clute.

At one shelter, lights-out is at 10 p.m., and that includes

the television, evacuees said. So when they wanted to stay up Friday night and watch coverage of the storm, they couldn't, said Marian Sharp, an Angleton resident.

"They turned and said, 'The TV's going off in five minutes,' and I said, 'Wait a minute, that's our home they're talking about,' and they said, 'Well, light's going off at 10 p.m., in five minutes.'"

Sharp said the first she knew about the flooding in Surfside was when she saw a picture in the local paper Saturday morning.

Leslie La Rue, 25, of Freeport said she talked with her father early Saturday morning and he assured her everything back in Brazoria County was fine.

Television reports and people calling loved ones who stayed in the county could not make her believe her

home and family were safe. "I know if he tells me it's OK, then it's OK," she said.

La Rue evacuated with her two children, ages 3 and 5, and said she's not gotten much sleep since she arrived at the shelter.

"He won't take a nap," La Rue said of her 3-year-old son. "I'm overwhelmed, I'm over-drained and I just want to go home."

For the evacuees in Bell County, though, that won't likely happen for several days as power companies are working to restore power to the county.

Until power is restored, most people's Brazoria County homes are without electricity, sewer and water treatment plants are not functional and gas lines are down, making the area near uninhabitable.

Lake Jackson resident Victoria Albright, 40, said she

wants to know how the storm affected her home and belongings. She also wants to know when she can get back to work.

"I just hope everything's all right because I've got two jobs to go to and I'm worried about that," she said. "I saw the newspaper here and I feel sorry for them (in Galveston). Everything's just ruined out there, and that's just sad, very sad."

Billy Glover, 54, is a little more reluctant to get back to his home in Quintana, he said.

"My home is ruined," he said.

Glover has a one-story home on ground-level that he is sure was ruined in the storm surge Friday.

"When I think about it, I just get sad," he said.

Reporter Erin McKeon is stationed in Bell County for The Facts.

Worst

CONTINUED FROM COVER

those who can help with revitalization of our infrastructure.

The village has no power and no schedule for resumed service, he said.

"We don't have anything here," Smith said. "All of our power is out. All of our lines down. We don't have anything from here to San Luis Pass. The whole 12 or 14 miles. We have probably 60 homes turned to devastation dust on the ground."

Smith and Mayor Larry Davison requested generators, potable water, fuel for police cars and portable toilets. Freeport Fire Chief John Stanford offered to let Surfside fuel their vehicles there, and Lake Jackson City Manager Bill Yenne said his city would give the village drinking water.

The road into Surfside will be blocked for the foreseeable future and only people with proof of residency will be allowed on the island, Davison said. No one will be allowed to stay in the village between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m., he said.

Police will, "hold our positions," Smith said. "We are going to let citizens on tomorrow afternoon with a sign-in and sign-out sheet, so they can take possession of their items at their homes or businesses. They must sign in and sign out. Roads will be blocked."

The all-night curfew will be enforced, "for a few days," Smith said.

"What's the status of our city?" Davison said. "Our city's a mess. We lost at least 40 homes and another 40 homes were damaged."

Earlier in the day, a man with a shotgun climbing into the cab of a front-end loader bound for Surfside gave an indication of the seriousness of the situation in the wake of Hurricane Ike.

The shotgun-toting man was to keep first-responders



Freeport Mayor Larry McDonald, left, works on a generator as city employee Scott Rogers holds a flashlight for him Friday night at the Freeport Police Department. The power went out at the police department about 6 p.m. Friday and the generator that normally would power the building in an outage also was not functioning.

safe in the village, a Surfside officer said.

"He's got it because there could be snakes or alligators," he said. "Or looters."

Aside from a handful of emergency workers ahead of the backhoe, there were no people on the island.

The base of the Surfside bridge was littered with flotsam loaded with debris, including small appliances and furniture, air conditioning units, windows and children's toys. An injured pelican atop the bridge struggled to get out of the way of the first vehicles to head into the island community since Ike.

Pictures will be taken of the status of the island and posted on the city's Web site, www.surfside.tx.org, so homeowners can check out how their property held up against the storm, Davison said.

"Hopefully we can get things back going pretty soon," he said.

In Freeport, the damage wasn't nearly as bad, but it was significant. A sign for Brazosport High School was knocked out of its concrete foundation and many tree limbs and street lights lined roadways. Telephone poles tore through buildings off Velasco Street and debris was tossed into the streets.

On Saturday, Freeport police weren't allowing people who were not part of the news media back into the city because of the road hazards.

"Much of the damage was wind damage," Freeport Mayor Larry McDonald said. "We didn't have a lot of water damage. We mainly had tree limbs drop into the roads and

the signs were blown down. They also need to look at the electrical system."

Most of the city was without power Saturday. McDonald couldn't say when crews would be able to restore electricity to all residents.

"I hope it's soon," he said. "I'd like to sleep with the air-conditioning on."

As the storm approached the coast Friday, it knocked out the generator at the Freeport Police Station. McDonald drove from his east-end home to the station on Highway 288 and repaired it.

"You won't get that out of many mayors," he said. "I'm a working mayor."

The Mystery Ship, a landmark at the Freeport Municipal Park, stood strong during the storm's arrival. The River Place, a conference center and civic center on the old Brazos River, also withstood the storm's best.

McDonald said the ship has withstood strong winds before and wasn't surprised the ship made it out of the storm intact.

Early Saturday, Freeport police cordoned off the FM 1495 bridge into Quintana because water had poured over the streets. By 3 p.m., officers opened the bridge to people under the guideline they proceed with caution.

In the beach town, many roofs were ripped from their homes and asphalt was pulled out of the roadways. Water was still over the path leading to the county beach. Morrison Park was filled with water late that day.

Bridge Harbor sustained heavy damage. The tide surge covered much of the ground during the storm and roofs were ripped from several buildings. There were no people in the subdivision, which was evacuated ahead of Ike.

Katrina's arrival beats Ike

By Mark Koopmans New Braunfels Herald-Zeitung

NEW BRAUNFELS

The Ike evacuee mother who gave birth at a local emergency shelter named her daughter after another massive storm.

Baby Katrina Htoo, who weighed in at 6 pounds, 3 ounces, was born at 5:09 p.m. Friday in the girls restroom at Church Hill Middle School in New Braunfels.

On Saturday, the father, Pah Yu, and four siblings, sat close to both the mother, Ku Paw, a native of Thailand, and the 1-day-old infant at CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Hospital-New Braunfels.

Through a translator, Paw expressed thanks to Dr. Mark Burns, the doctor who helped her give birth to her fifth child, and also to his impromptu assistant, New Braunfels City Councilwoman Kathleen Krueger, who said "we were a team until the birth, and then I stepped back a few feet."

Although Burns, a specialist in geriatric psychiatry, had not assisted in a birth since being a third year medical student — back in 1985 — his training and apparent long memory didn't let him down.

"All credit goes to the mom. She did a great job and was very calm and serene during the whole procedure, which took less than 15 minutes overall," Burns said.

Baby Katrina's fast arrival was a surprise for Church Hill Principal Dani Lynn Baylor, who was present along with two of her staff members — assistant principal Chelsy Merrill and home economics teacher Lindy Dowdy — who assisted with the birth. Nurse Peggy Tielke, parent of a middle school child, also was there.

Baylor said they were at the school when word came someone was having a baby.

"Chelsy went outside to find out who it was because we had three or four pregnant women here," she said. "We saw her coming down back down the hall carrying towels."

Ku Paw was helped into the girls restroom, where baby Katrina was delivered a few minutes later.

The baby's father and three of the couple's children were scheduled to return to Port Lavaca with other evacuees Saturday.

The Family of Janette Stuessil deeply appreciate the thoughtfulness, prayers and sympathy from the community for the loss of our wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother & friend.

Billy Loveless tells you what's hot and what's not ... Fridays in ENTERTAINMENT CONNECTION The Facts

NEAL Insurance Auto Insurance Great Rates, Call for a Quote 979-849-5779

The Facts Covering Brazoria County - Where Texas Began

Since 1982 866-4EU-NEEK 979-848-0155

HOUSE PAINTING by EU-NEEK www.euneekpainting.com

Damage from Ike extensive throughout county

By John Tompkins
john.tompkins@thefacts.com

ANGLETON — After Hurricane Ike plowed through Brazoria County, police and emergency personnel said they were grateful they only had to make a few rescues throughout Saturday.

As of Saturday afternoon, police had to find help for a woman found unresponsive in Brazoria and a man bit by a snake in Alvin, said Neal Morton, president of the Brazoria County Firefighter's Association. They were taken to receive medical care but officials did not know where they were taken, and their conditions were not available Saturday afternoon.

Since the storm hit, there have been no known deaths in the county as far as county officials can determine, Morton said.

The county's main priority today and beyond is to make sure roads are drivable and ensure safety for the residents who stayed, said Steve Rosa, the county's assistant emergency management coordinator.

"Make sure there's no one out there that's trapped,"



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

A downed telephone pole and debris from a nearby building block Velasco Boulevard near the intersection at Avenue A in Freeport. High winds from Hurricane Ike brought down many wires, poles and street signs throughout the city.

Rosa said. "Make sure roads in unincorporated areas are passable."

Some homes and apartment complexes collapsed throughout the county, but they did not result in injuries, Morton said.

"We haven't had a whole lot of rescues," he said.

The damage was most extensive in areas affected by the storm surge, such as Quintana and Surfside, but Rosa had no dollar estimate for the damage throughout the entire county.

Many tree limbs and a couple of power lines could be seen on the ground in

Angleton, along with some street signs demonstrating the force of the storm's winds overnight. There were signs of damaged roofs, though these appeared mostly to just have had shingles torn loose, nothing structural.

A strip center previously hit by fire was further damaged

by Hurricane Ike. The roof over the Amusement Center and adjoining storefronts in Angleton, which were not rebuilt after the blaze last year, had caved in. The Subway shop in the center was rebuilt, but whether it also was damaged by the cave-in wasn't clear.

By about lunchtime, power was turned on in some parts of Angleton. A handful of street lights along Loop 274 and Highway 35 were operating at about 3 p.m.

Officials said Saturday that FM 2918 had about 6 miles with 6 to 8 inches of water and debris over it, while CR 469 was under water.

In Lake Jackson, lumber looked to be the main issue, with both trees and wooden fencing strewn about. An assessment of damage in Clute was under way, and emergency crews were turning away all media at all entrances to the city until it could be completed.

Dow Texas Operations looked largely unscathed, save some downed power lines, which were a problem throughout southern and central Brazoria County. Trucks from Texas-New

Mexico Power and CenterPoint could be seen rumbling through the area as electricity remained out.

The Freeport Fire Department received a call for help from three people in a mobile home west of Slaughter Road off Highway 36 as the winds topped 50 mph Friday night, but they could not respond.

"We can't go out in hurricane-force winds," Freeport Fire Chief John Stanford said. "It's just too dangerous."

Firefighters checked on the three people, who Stanford could not identify, and they were OK Saturday morning.

"As soon as the wind subsided we sent a crew out, and they were fine."

Freeport assisted Surfside in removing several people from the island who thought they wanted to stay until the tide started rising, Stanford said.

"When they got high water, they changed their minds," he said.

There was no flooding in Freeport, and rumors levees gave way there were false.

Reporters Nathaniel Lukefahr and John Lowman contributed to this story.

School districts will stay closed

By Erin McKeon
erin.mckeon@thefacts.com

Angleton, Brazosport and Columbia-Brazoria ISDs will not be open for school Monday as officials had planned, officials said.

Brazosport ISD also will be closed Tuesday, but the other districts had not made that determination Saturday evening.

"It remains my goal to open schools soon after power and utilities are returned," Angleton ISD Superintendent Heath Burns said.

Brazosport ISD spokesman Stuart Dornburg said the district will not have school Monday or Tuesday. District officials expect to meet Tuesday morning to assess the current circumstances and decide what to do about classes for the rest of the week, he said.

Burns said Angleton ISD parents, students and teachers can keep up to date with the school's status on the district's Web site, angletonisd.net, or by calling the Angleton ISD hotline at (713) 756-7154.

Brazosport ISD information is available by calling (979) 388-0218. Columbia-Brazoria information is available on the district's Web site, www.cbisd.com.

Like Brazosport ISD, Brazosport College will be closed Monday and Tuesday, at least.

Officials there are asking people to call the Brazosport College switchboard at (979) 230-3000 or monitor www.brazosport.edu at 2 p.m. daily for the latest information on re-opening.

The status of classes at Alvin Community College could not be determined late Saturday.

DAMAGEASSESSMENT

A city-by-city look at the conditions of your hometown Saturday after the passing of Hurricane Ike.

ALVIN	Damage and collapse to some businesses and homes, flooded streets including South Street near the Gordon Street intersection.
ANGLETON	Downed street signs and lights, downed power and cable lines, power outage to most of the city, mild roof damage to some homes, billboards and business signs down.
BRAZORIA	About one quarter of the city without power, some carpools damaged, but houses in the area relatively unscathed, trees down all around the area but no major damage or flooding.
CLUTE	Complete power outage, downed trees, limbs and fences, downed power and other service lines, blocked roads, lots of minor shingle damage, a few buildings missing parts of roofs.
DANBURY	Downed power lines and cable lines, complete power outage, lots of trees down, a handful of street signs blown down.
FREEPORT	Power outages, downed power lines, numerous downed trees, limited drinking water, some home damage, some structural damage to government buildings.
HOLIDAY LAKES	Lots of trees down, some limbs fell on top of homes and vehicles, some telephone and electrical poles down, city completely without power.
JONES CREEK	Trees down, including one on the Baptist Church that damaged the building, limbs down, fallen trees.
LAKE JACKSON	Complete power outage, downed trees, limbs and fences, downed power and other service lines, blocked roads, lots of minor shingle damage, a few buildings missing parts of roofs.
MANVEL	Power outages but some restored, trees and limbs down, some home damage.
OYSTER CREEK	Power and cable lines down, complete power outage, lots of trees down, some home damage.
QUINTANA	Some serious home damage, downed power lines, downed trees.
RICHWOOD	Complete power outage; downed trees, limbs and fences; downed power and other service lines; blocked roads; minor shingle damage.
ROSHARON	Power outages to most of Rosharon, street lights dangling, some stop signs down, a few trees down, at least one on houses.
SURFSIDE BEACH	Catastrophic home and infrastructure damage.
SWEENEY	No flooding in the city, trees down and power lines damaged, two vehicles damaged by fallen trees and at least one home had a tree fall on it.
WEST COLUMBIA	One report of a tree that has fallen on a home, many power lines down, stop lights all around town dangling by wires, trees and other debris litter the streets and community
WILD PEACH	Like most other cities, trees down and the village is without power, no reports of damages to homes businesses

Source: From Facts staff reports



24th Annual FUN RUN

Brazosport Regional Health System

Saturday, September 27, 2008

Register Online: www.active.com



Benefiting the Brazosport Regional Cardiac Care Center
For more information please contact the Marketing Department at (979) 299-2880.

Kids 1K Run
Adult 5K Walk
Certified 5K Run & 10K Run

Entry Fees
Kids 1K - \$1

Adult 5K & 10K Walk/Run
\$20 - by September 20
\$25 - after September 20
\$10 - BRHS employees

Race Day Registration & Packet Pickup
Brazosport Regional Health System
Front Lawn
7:00 AM to 7:45 AM

Race Start Times
Kids 1K - 7:30 AM
5K & 10K Walk & Runs - 8:00 AM

FEATURED PRIZES

Cash Awards will be presented to the top overall male and female finishers in the 5K Run and 10K Run.

Prizes will be presented to the top three male and female overall and masters finishers, and to the top male and female finishers in categories from 12 & Under to 70+.

Prizes will be presented to the winners of both the male and female divisions of the Adult Walk.



HURRY!
ENTRY DEADLINE IS SEPT. 15!

Cruise by our new Angleton office and you could win a 4-day cruise!

Before September 15, visit Moody National Bank's new Angleton financial center, and enter to win a fabulous cruise for two aboard one of the Carnival Fun Ships out of Galveston. The drawing will be held September 17, 2008; no purchase necessary; details and entry forms available at the financial center, 2518 N. Velasco.

Ask about our FREE CHECKING - FOREVER!

With Moody National FREE Checking, you get these FREE Extras:

- No monthly service fee, EVER!
- FREE investment/financial planning consultation from LifeStyle Financial Advisors, Inc.
- Unlimited check writing
- First order of checks FREE
- An extra 10 basis points on any CD you buy when you open a new FREE CHECKING account
- FREE Internet banking
- FREE Debit/ATM Card

With 25 convenient banking locations in Brazoria, Fort Bend, Harris and Galveston Counties, including our newest office at 2518 N. Velasco, Angleton • (979) 849-6188



Moody National Bank
Member FDIC
www.moodybank.com

Bank your future on our 100-year past.

Terry Driggers, D.D.S.
Family Dentistry & Orthodontics

NO INTEREST PAYMENT PLANS THROUGH CARECREDIT*

** Call for details*

505 Dance, West Columbia, TX • 979-345-5135
www.terrydriggersdds.com

Galveston residents swap horrific survival stories

By Rhiannon Meyers
Galveston County Daily News

GALVESTON — The proud heir of a 1900 Storm survivor, Fletcher Harris, 85, always told anyone who would listen that he's not the type of man who flees from a hurricane. But after a harrowing night in his apartment and a near deadly flee from rising floodwaters, the former city councilmember, who stayed through hurricanes Carla and Alicia, says he'll never weather another island hurricane again.

"It was the worst thing I've ever seen," he said as he sat in a hard-backed chair outside of Ball High School, wearing a shirt smeared with mud and blood from his arm. Harris grew up hearing his father's stories about how he survived the devastating 1900 Storm by fleeing to high ground.

Harris spent the early part of Friday night in his downstairs apartment at Ashton Place, 6904 Lasker Drive. He said he figured if flooding got too bad, he, like his father, would flee to high ground.

When the waters rose, Harris grabbed a crowbar and headed upstairs to pry open a second story apartment door.

About 9 p.m., Harris, who has only one hand, fumbled in the dark to loosen the lock, but high winds knocked him down over and over.

He cut his arm, bruised his body, and severely injured his hip. Firefighters said they thought it wasn't broken.

Harris took to the streets to seek shelter. He grabbed a stop sign for support but it snapped apart in his hand.

When the winds died down

Saturday morning, rescue crews plucked Harris from the street and brought him to Ball High School.

"Can you imagine me being so smart-alecky that I thought, 'It's just a hurricane?'"

"God has sent me this to teach me a lesson, and a bunch of other people too. I'm never going to mess around again."

Islanders who fled rising waters in the middle of roaring Hurricane Ike echoed Harris' words.

Jesse Segura lives in a two-bedroom home at 2115 71st Street. He stayed, thinking that Ike would do as little damage to his place as Hurricane Rita did three years ago. But when the storm made landfall, Segura's home started to flood.

Electric sockets shorted out. He shut off the electricity, stacked two mattresses atop his kitchen table and tried to sleep there.

The waters rose higher.

When the water was chest deep, Segura panicked. He waded to the bathroom, climbed atop the sink, punched a hole in the sheet rock, and hauled himself into the attic, where he waited for the winds to die.

Rescue crews found him Saturday morning on 69th Street. When they scooped him up, Segura was barefooted and his jeans and T-shirt were soaked. He could barely stand on his swollen feet.

"This was a real close call to death for me," he said. "I'll never do it again, man. I learned my lesson."

Segura joined a group of islanders at Ball High school who had been rescued from their homes.

The survivors bummed cigarettes, petted each other's dogs, held

babies and swapped survival stories. Some needed medical treatment.

One firefighter was treated on the front steps of ball high school for burns he sustained in a fire. Those sitting on the steps with him paid no attention as medics hooked an IV to the firefighter's arm and swung an IV bag over his shoulder. They were too worried about their own family members.

Destin Fluellen's father was flown to a hospital after the storm Saturday because he hadn't received dialysis treatments in two days. Rescue crews said they found Fluellen, who lived at 19th Street and Avenue I, carrying his father along Broadway.

On Saturday, Fluellen and his family shouted out thanks to Galveston police and fire crews as they headed back home to assess the damage.

EYE ON IKE

From wire reports

NEW ORLEANS
Evacuees not laughing at Mayor Nagin's 'joke'

Mayor Ray Nagin says he was only joking when he suggested Hurricane Ike evacuees should request a discount — the "Nagin special" — when they stay at New Orleans hotels.

But when evacuees got baffled looks from hotel clerks, some didn't find it funny.

Nagin's remark prompted a hotel association to send an e-mail urging business owners to make appropriate accommodations in the spirit of cooperation. The association also said Saturday it is against federal law for hotels to collectively agree on rates.

One Texas evacuee told The Times-Picayune of New Orleans it "was not a joking matter when you're running for your life."

GALVESTON
Rescuers racing time

Rescue crews canvassed neighborhoods inundated by Ike's storm surge were in a race against time early today to rescue those who faced a second harrowing night trapped amid flattened houses, strewn debris and downed power lines.

As darkness fell Saturday, a search and rescue squad began pushing into a neighborhood on a finger of land in Galveston Bay. Authorities hoped to spare thousands of Texans — 140,000 by some estimates — who ignored mandates to flee Hurricane Ike from another night among the destruction.

Paramedics, rescue dogs and structural engineers fanned out under a full moon, hoping to find the people who remained trapped.

HOUSTON
Gawkers flood downtown

Downtown residents streamed onto streets littered with debris to take in the damage from Hurricane Ike even as glass from the 75-story JPMorgan Chase Tower, the state's tallest building, continued to crash to the ground, threatening to injure nearby gawkers.

"I think we're like at ground zero," said Mauricio Diaz, 36, as he walked outside the Post Rice Lofts across the street. Metal blinds from the tower dotted the street, along with red seat cushions, pieces of a wood desk and office documents marked "highly confidential."

Diaz rode out the storm with his pregnant wife, Thais, 33, in their apartment on the ninth floor of the Post Rice Lofts across the street. Though their apartment was unscathed, some businesses inside didn't fare so well.

Houston Police officer Joseph Ledet was patrolling the streets early Saturday, but stopped and simply stared as he approached the building.

"It looks like a bomb went off over there," he said. "Just destruction."



Units with the Texas Air National Guard load up their helicopters at the Brazoria County Airport before heading to Galveston to assist with the aftermath of Hurricane Ike that came to shore late Friday and early Saturday. Officials with the airport said the FAA has restricted the airspace over the area for two weeks.

DAN DALSTRA/The Facts

Galveston Island closed

Search under way for dead, injured.

By Leigh Jones and Rhiannon Meyers
Galveston County Daily News

GALVESTON — As Hurricane Ike spirals on toward North Texas, the island, which took the brunt of the storm's wide girth, is in recovery mode and is closed to all inbound traffic, officials said.

Emergency crews' search and rescue efforts are focusing on the West End but the city has no reports of fatalities.

About 100 people have been rescued, authorities said. At least four have been flown to local hospitals in critical condition.

Seventeen structures have collapsed, including two apartment buildings. One of the apartment buildings is at Holiday Drive and Church Street. The other is near First Street and Ferry Road, City Manager Steve LeBlanc said.

Rescue crews will search the debris for bodies and injured people, he said.

Ten of the 17 buildings are homes that collapsed because of fire. City crews have been able to search as far west as 11 Mile Road but everything beyond that is still under water.

The causeway is in "bad shape," LeBlanc said. "It is covered in debris and the road has buckled in places."

But LeBlanc said he did not think the structural integrity of the bridge was compromised. The city is allowing people off the island.

State rescue crews are sending food, water and ice, and generators to the shelter at Ball High School. Officials had planned to close the shelter but had to keep taking in people who had nowhere else to go. Twelve Galveston firefighters were managing the injured at the school.

Floodwaters are receding, but Harborside Drive, the Downtown Historic District and Broadway are still under water. Debris-clogged drains are hindering drainage.

LeBlanc said he was astonished by the emptiness in front of the Seawall. The Balinese Room, Murdoch's souvenir shop, Hooters and the 61st Street



People look at the tons of debris on the southbound lanes of Interstate 45 near Galveston on Saturday several hours after Hurricane Ike struck the Southeast Texas coast.

GUY REYNOLDS/Dallas Morning News

Pleasure Pier have all vanished, washed away in Ike's fury.

Mayor Lyda Ann Thomas said the blow to the west end of the island will create hardships for the rest of Galveston because 47 percent of the island's tax base is located on the West End.

She urged those who evacuated to be patient as the city tries to recover in the coming days.

"We will do everything we can to bring you home when it's safe to do so," she said.

On the Seawall, Ike sheared in half the plaque on the statue of victims of the 1900 Storm raising their arms in mourning.

All around the island, the outlook was grim.

A line of helicopters headed toward Galveston and some landed on the Seawall.

Homes have been gutted and ripped apart by the wind, cars are under water, stranded or discarded and boats are lying around town.

Debris is everywhere. The storm ripped up chunks of pavement on the Seawall that are now blocking the road. Cemeteries and parking lots have become lakes. Debris on fences west of 51st street indicate the water rose

more than 8 feet.

Some apartments west of 61st Street had missing windows, exposing bedrooms inside. A nail salon on 61st Street was completely ripped apart.

Wild animals, including possums and egrets, are milling around front yards and schools.

Emergency crews made their way through high waters Saturday morning, rescuing injured survivors.

Winds and rain severely damaged the Flagship hotel, the only structure remaining in front of the Seawall. The roof of city hall has collapsed, emergency responders said.

Fires raged around the city throughout the night as firefighters watched helplessly, unable to traverse the flooded city.

A building near 63rd Street and Stewart Road burned and officials said it was possibly a church. Houses burned after a fire broke out in one home at 51st Street and Avenue K.

The city's water system is not functioning.

Part of the roof of the San Luis Hotel, where city officials and news media rode out the storm, was torn off and glass in the back of the building shattered. Water poured inside from the ceiling.

Perry calls Ike rescue operation biggest ever

By Jay Root
Associated Press Writer

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry said Saturday state and federal officials were working well together in what he called the largest search and rescue operation in Texas history.

Help was "on the way," Perry promised as 57 helicopters took to the air and 1,500 people worked on the ground portion of the operation, according to state officials. The far-flung missions stretched from the Louisiana border to parts of Brazoria County.

By Saturday evening, the storm had made its way out of the state.

Perry's spokeswoman, Allison Castle, said late Saturday that since Hurricane Ike made landfall there had been 940 rescues statewide of people stranded in homes, vehicles or other places. Most of the rescues have been in Galveston and Orange counties, she said.

Jack Colley, director of the governor's division of emergency management, said state authorities were ferrying storm victims to prearranged locations where transportation and medical attention can be provided.

"Where we see people we're picking them up," Colley said. "We pick them up and we're moving them to designated places."

Officials said they helped coordinate, with the U.S. Coast Guard, the rescue of four critically ill patients from a Galveston hospital.

Meanwhile, Perry said the state is working well with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

At a sports arena in Houston, tractor-trailers and large sport utility vehicles sat idle as the vast storm churned northward across the state. Stone said federal officials are now seeking to pinpoint the hardest-hit areas.

Speaking to reporters at the emergency operations center in Austin, Perry said state officials have been "working well with our federal counterparts, with our local counterparts." In the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Perry issued blistering criticisms of the agency. But he said Saturday it would be premature to engage in any finger-pointing.

Officials said about a third of the people who dialed 911 for help spoke Spanish. Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, who appeared at the news conference with Perry, urged Spanish-speaking Texans — in their language — to contact local authorities for assistance.



Restwood Memorial Park welcomes the coming addition of

Restwood Funeral Home

979-297-2121 • www.restwoodmemorialpark.com



Houston airports stay shut

By The Associated Press

DALLAS — Houston's two commercial airports remained closed Saturday as Hurricane Ike rumbled north from the Gulf of Mexico, and Southwest Airlines was planning to cancel flights today arriving to and departing from the city.

Hobby spokeswoman Marlene McClinton said the airport, south of downtown Houston, lost power and was running on generators Saturday. The airport sustained a few broken windows and some water leaks, but no major damage, she said.

Southwest, based in Dallas, did not intend to run flights through Houston today, McClinton said.

Bush Intercontinental Airport, about 30 miles north of downtown Houston, remained closed Saturday, McClinton said. By late afternoon, airport officials still were deciding whether to reopen today, she said.

The airports shut down Friday afternoon, about a half-day ahead of Ike's arrival.

Marcia Adams, a spokeswoman for the Federal Aviation Administration in Washington, said the closures caused no serious delays elsewhere in the country because they were anticipated and planned for.

Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport remained open Saturday for most flights. But airport authorities urged travelers in the region to check with their airlines as the huge storm moved northward from the Gulf of Mexico.

DFW reported only about two dozen flights to South Texas and Louisiana had been canceled because of conditions associated with Ike; flights into Dallas-Fort Worth were unaffected.

Airport spokesman Ken Capps said officials were monitoring weather conditions but that winds of 20 to 30 mph had not affected flights. Ike was downgraded to a tropical storm as it moved north.

Airports in San Antonio and Austin also remained open Saturday, although flights to and from Houston were canceled at both facilities.

DUMPSTER DINING



DAN DALSTRA/The Facts

Area residents loaded up with food from the HEB trash bin next to the West Columbia grocery store Saturday. The store was without power and had to dispose of the perishable items. Many people left without power from Hurricane Ike heard about the trash bin full of food and came to get their hands on produce, milk, cheese, and other items they were unable to get with all the stores in the area closed because of the hurricane evacuation.

Economic hit might be less than feared

By David Koenig

AP Business Writers

A small change in Hurricane Ike's course just before it crashed into the Texas coast might have spared the state and the nation from significantly worse economic damage.

The center of the storm appeared to miss the vital concentration of oil and petrochemical refineries in the Houston area, and the surge of water rolling into the nation's second-largest port also was weaker than predicted.

"If the eye of that storm had been as much as 20 miles east, we would have a lot more havoc and damage than we did," said Chris Johnson, a senior vice president at commercial property insurer FM Global.

Much of the region's industrial recovery will depend on how quickly power companies can restore electricity; that, in turn, will depend on how quickly the utilities can get employees back to work.

"I received a call from one of my employees, who was evacuated to San Antonio. He was just informed that his house was totally destroyed," said Bill Reid, the CEO of Ohmstede, which builds and repairs refineries. Reid, who lives in Kemah, about 35 miles south of Houston, said his town was without power and water, and still had 15 feet of flooding.

Thus far, the storm's impact on businesses looks much milder than its affect on individuals. The human toll of the storm might be extensive, with untold numbers of home destroyed, roads impassable and no electricity or water service



Associated Press

Marathon's refinery is shown Saturday in Texas City after Hurricane Ike hit.

for thousands. It might take days to determine how many people were killed by Ike.

The port of Houston, the nation's second-largest, was without power Saturday but expects to reopen Monday morning if the Coast Guard finds no obstacles in the shipping lanes. Some empty cargo containers were blown about, but not too far.

"All the terminals did very well and we had only very minor damage, like fencing being blown down," said port spokeswoman Argentina James.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. reopened seven stores near Corpus Christi on Saturday. Another 130 stores remained closed, said Greg Rossiter, a company spokesman. "From what we can tell right now, our facilities

seem to be coming through the storm reasonably well," he said.

Refineries as far east as Louisiana were affected by the storm, however. The tourist island town of Galveston was flooded and office buildings in downtown Houston were damaged, but it could have been worse.

"It appears that, at least from our facility and operations standpoint, the impact is a little less than we did anticipate," said Mike Smid, chief executive of trucking company YRC North America, which runs Yellow and Roadway lines. The company evacuated its 900 employees ahead of the storm.

Preliminary estimates put the damage at \$8 billion or more, but a precise accounting of the storm's wrath was far from complete.

Please join us in
~ Congratulating ~

Janie Andrews
On her
Retirement after
43 years
in Banking!

You are welcome to come into our branch located at
128 Oyster Creek Drive, Lake Jackson on
Monday, September 15th,
between the hours of 9:00a.m. to 5:00p.m.
to celebrate Janie's retirement.

Thank you for your service, Janie!

 **Moody National Bank**
www.moodybank.com



**Freeport Police Department
Civilian Police Commissioner Program**


The Freeport Police Department is accepting applications for our civilian Police Commissioner program. We are looking for one civilian Commissioner for each of the four Freeport council member districts. This is a volunteer program. Each Commissioner will be a community liaison for their respective area while working with the Chief of Police as an advisory panel.

The program guidelines are posted on the Freeport city website.

Applications are available at the Freeport Police Department. If you need further information contact Chief Jeff Pynes at 979-239-1732.

This is a unique program.
Working together we can have a positive
impact in our community.


brazosport
UROLOGY


Dr. Alisa Berger

PROVIDING THE LATEST IN
UROLOGICAL CARE

- Vasectomies
- Kidney Stone Treatment
- Erectile Dysfunction
- Prostate Biopsies
- Prostate Surgery for Cancer
- Enlarged Prostate (BPH) Treatment
- Laparoscopic Kidney Surgery
- Incontinence (Male & Female)
- Pediatric Urology Services

115 Abner Jackson Pkwy, Suite C
Lake Jackson, TX 77566
Telephone: (979) 297-4140
www.bpurology.com

For Outdoor Enjoyment at HOME Shop

Fireplaces by Roye..... 1238 Hwy 521 • Brazoria, TX..... **979-798-2105**
www.fireplacesbyroye.com

Outdoor Kitchens
Spas • Grilling
Accessories & More
Financing available with
approved credit.

Palin should remain the same

A new Fox News/Opinion Dynamics poll says 50 percent of Americans believe John McCain's choice of Sarah Palin was the most effective pick in the campaign; 40 percent say Barack Obama's selection of Joe Biden was the smarter choice. That confirms the prevailing wisdom that Gov. Palin is dramatically helping McCain's chances of becoming president.

Going forward, Palin must consolidate her initial gains, and it will not be easy. First of all, the tabloid press is all over Alaska looking for dirt on Palin, and you can bet they'll come up with something. No human being is perfect. And then there's the mainstream media, which took a beating last week after trying to marginalize Palin as some kind of country bumpkin, a religious fanatic not fit to serve. The personal attacks against Palin and her family angered millions of Americans and, almost instantly, made the governor a folk hero in some circles.



BILL O'REILLY

Of course, that infuriated the establishment press, which doesn't like getting pounded in the court of public opinion. So you can take it to the bank many left-leaning media members are lying in wait.

But Palin has some skills that can protect her against the inevitable attacks. She is a natural performer — the TV camera loves the woman. She also is a plainspoken American who connects emotionally with the folks. Therefore, she can set her own agenda. As Ronald Reagan once did, she can go directly to the people and around the press.

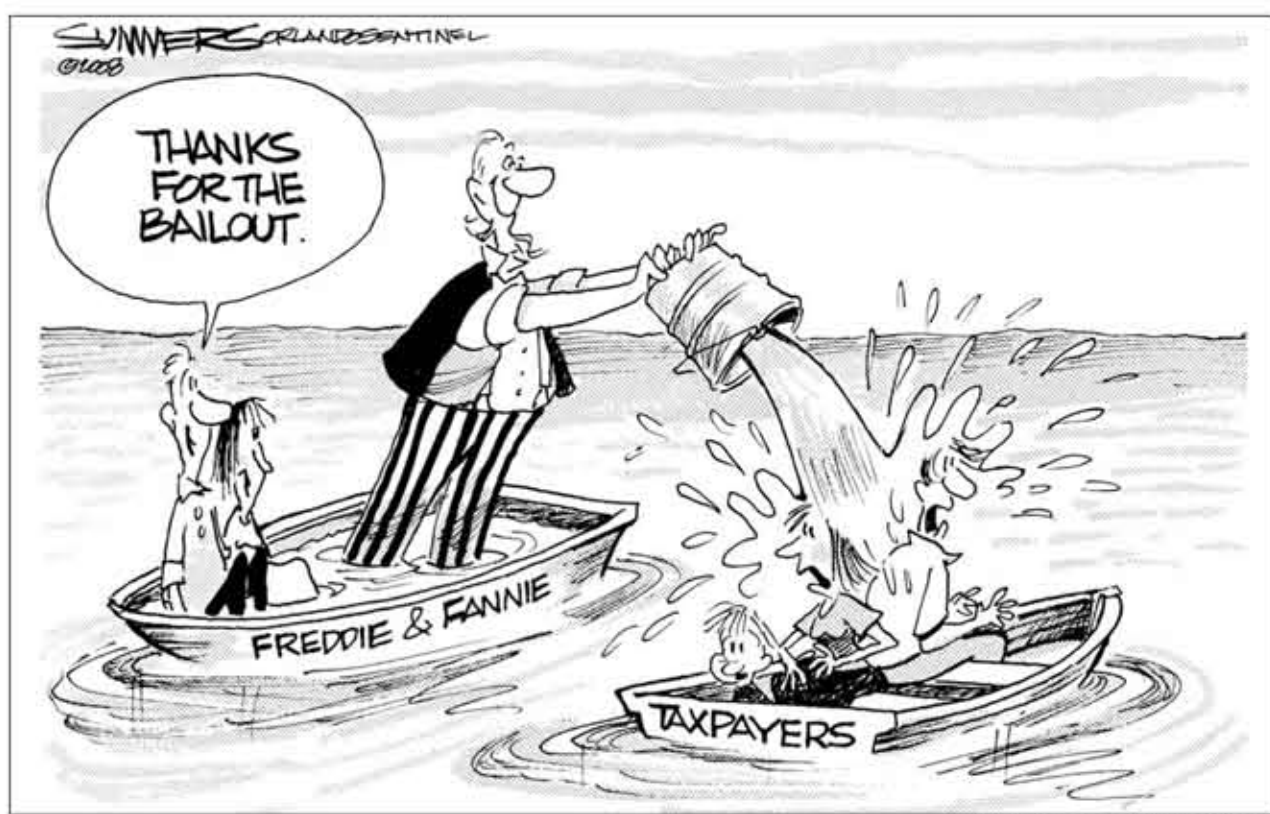
If I were advising Palin, I would have had her defend Obama in the lipstick/pig incident. If Palin would have stated that she doesn't believe the senator would compare her to a pig, it would have been a compassionate gesture. Folks love compassion. Giving Obama the benefit of the doubt in the pig deal would have meant more votes in the barnyard, and also would have made it harder for the Obama campaign to lash her in the future.

In addition, I would tell Sarah to be Sarah: feisty, down to earth and funny. Don't try to be Henry Kissinger. Just demonstrate a grasp of the issues and a determination to look out for the folks. The key phrase for Palin should be: "Here's what we want to do." Then, using simple terms, state that.

Right now, American voters want to be reassured that their jobs are safe and that some crazy terrorist won't blow up their neighborhood. Palin has successfully dealt with economic issues in Alaska. On national security she has no record. But I'm sure there are things she wants to do in order to keep her five children safe. Just state them.

The elite media have little in common with everyday Americans, and Palin should laugh off their attempts to demean her. She can best capitalize on her incredibly fast start by simply keeping it simple. Nice goes a long way in life. And in politics.

Bill O'Reilly is a nationally syndicated columnist. Contact him through his Web site, www.billoreilly.com.



DANA SUMMERS/Orlando Sentinel



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

Tree branches and debris cover a car near a building that is under construction at 4th Avenue in Freeport.

Gambling against elements not safe

Some 50 miles separated Brazoria County from devastation Saturday, the width of an eyelash for a monster like Ike.

Surfside Beach was pummeled with heartbreaking surf that took a bit of the beach and more of the infrastructure with every crashing wave. Freeport's levees held, thank God, but winds ripped through buildings, tore down rows of power lines and trees.

Yet many people gambled on those 50 miles, staying behind near the coast in defiance of a mandatory evacuation order in structures not built to withstand the wind.

Take Ray Wilkinson, for instance. He twice refused rescuers' attempts to coax him from his second-story balcony in a Surfside Beach motel. One of those times his would-be saviors were police officers who waded in on foot almost a mile through chest-deep stormy water to implore him to get out.

Even with that 50-mile break to the east that took Hurricane Ike's most punishing wind and highest surf up the shore a relative smidge, Wilkinson admitted Saturday he was stupid to stay on the island.

Sorry, Ray, but I'd have to agree. It's also grossly inconsiderate to put the lives of first-responders at risk not once, but twice, and to leave your friends and family to

prematurely mourn your death while they simultaneously cope with the catastrophic loss of property and livelihood a hurricane brings.

I'll defend anyone's right to protect their property, but I don't consider Ray's almost-last stand courage, or conviction or even vocation.

I rode Hurricane Ike out from the comfort of a newspaper office in Seguin, but with panic for the Facts employees back home covering the storm. We had long-planned to have staffers Nathaniel Lukefahr and Holly Parker at the Freeport Police Station, with the entire police force. The building has strong storm shutters and a back dock that had to be cranked open for anyone to get a peek at the winds.

They were with people I trusted to keep them safe, under instructions to take no chances, but I still got scared when the generator power went out there and I heard some fear creep into their voices.

John Lowman spent the night in the Lake Jackson Police Department, with some people I have known for years and with our publisher just across the street in the firehouse, but still we rested easier when he bunked into a jail cell cot until the winds died down and he got the all-clear to venture out.

When John Tompkins and Dan Dalstra called to say part of the roof had fallen off the Brazoria County Courthouse, a building equipped to withstand hurricane winds and where the county emergency response team was housed, I snapped at them to get back inside.

And at 6 a.m. when Dan called to say John had slipped on a court-

house step and busted his head open, I was so grateful he had medical personnel there to help him.

Some put the decision we make to stay behind and cover a storm on par with Ray Wilkinson's stubborn will to stay on Surfside Beach.

I disagree, of course. It's our duty to inform our readers of what's going on at home, but we must do it in a responsible way. Which is why our reporters stay at emergency operations centers with emergency officials at the ready.

If Ray Wilkinson would have slipped and busted his head, as Tompkins did, he wouldn't have had nurse Jo Mapel at his side to clean and bandage the wound.

Mapel spent most of Saturday tracking down a doctor to stitch Tompkins' wound shut, and he and I both are incredibly grateful for her care.

On a less dramatic note, when their Internet access went down in Lake Jackson, Chief Paul Hromadka let John Lowman use his e-mail account to send his reports.

It's the right thing for the paper for our production staff to be here, in Seguin, where we have electricity and can provide updates around the clock on our Web site. But it leaves us powerless to help our guys back home.

Knowing our staff were in the safest places they could be to do their jobs, I still worried.

I can't imagine how Ray Wilkinson's family and friends must have felt.

Yvonne Mintz is managing editor of The Facts. Contact her at yvonne.mintz@thefacts.com.



YVONNE MINTZ

FACTSPOLL

How would you characterize the decision to defy mandatory evacuation orders and stay in single-family homes in the face of a hurricane?

- Courageous — I wouldn't leave my home at the mercy of would-be looters, either.
- Reckless — Putting yourself in harm's way puts emergency officials in danger.
- Depends — It depends on the severity of the storm and the structural integrity of the house.

Editor's note: Because of computer system difficulties in the wake of Hurricane Ike, our poll might not be immediately available at thefacts.com. This poll will remain open for two weeks, so if it is not available right away, please check back to cast your vote.

YOURVOICE

The Facts welcomes letters of up to 200 words and guest columns of up to 500 words.

Writers should limit themselves to one submission a week.

Mail letters to: The Facts, P.O. Box 549, Clute, TX 77531; fax to (979) 265-9052, or e-mail to opinions@thefacts.com.

Letters also can be dropped off at The Facts offices at 720 S. Main in Clute or 700 Western Ave. in Angleton.

Dems will alienate voters attacking Palin

Democrat activists have let Sarah Palin get under their skin — and if they don't get a grip, their visceral loathing of the Republican vice presidential candidate could cost them the election. First there was the "lipstick on a pig" flap — a comment the Obama campaign insists was not directed at Gov. Palin, but which dominated political coverage this week. And there was the inexplicable claim by Democratic vice presidential nominee Joe Biden that electing Palin as the first female vice president in our nation's history would be a "backward step for women."



LINDA CHAVEZ

Then there was the vicious statement by the chairwoman of the South Carolina Democratic Party, Carol Fowler, who claimed that Gov. Palin's "primary qualification seems to be she hasn't had an abortion." Does it get any uglier than this?

In fairness, I'm not certain Sen. Obama intended to call Gov. Palin a pig. His explicit target was John McCain, especially the claim that McCain/Palin is the real "change" ticket in this election. But the audience of Democratic faithful assembled in Lebanon, Va., clearly reacted to Obama's unfortunate metaphor as if he'd just made a clever reference to Palin. They howled, roaring their approval at the remark, which clearly recalled Palin's famous statement about lipstick in her acceptance speech. Whatever Sen. Obama's intention, the crowd drew the inference that "lipstick on a pig" meant Palin.

But Obama's remark wasn't the only lipstick reference of the day. In his introduction of Biden at another campaign event, Democratic Congressman Russ Carnahan said of Palin, "There's no way you can dress up that record, even with a lot of lipstick."

So what is it that lipstick has come to represent to these partisan zealots? It is as if lipstick has become the new symbol of the culture wars that have dominated American politics since 1972.

Jonathan Last, writing online at First Things magazine, suggests that Gov. Palin's decision not to abort her son Trig when she learned he had Down syndrome was a challenge to liberals' idea of what constitutes worthwhile life. He notes, "the left sees Baby Trig as a provocation ... as a little Terri Schiavo."

Carol Fowler's remarks certainly suggest she disapproved of Palin's decision. Fowler later issued a clarification of her remarks, which fell short of a retraction: "I personally admire and respect the difficult choices that women make everyday, and I apologize to anyone who finds my comment offensive. I clumsily was making a point about people in South Carolina who may vote based on a single issue."

But do Fowler and others on the left really favor a woman's right to choose? Washington Post editorial writer Ruth Marcus admitted had her own amniocentesis "results indicated any abnormality, I have little doubt that I would have made a different decision than did Palin." Indeed, Palin's decision to have five children, in and of itself, seems to irritate many on the left, for whom population control is a major liberal tenet.

As Last correctly points out, "The Palin family's five children would have been unexceptional 40 years ago, but today constitute something of a fertility freak show. According to the most recent census data, only 1.1 percent of non-Hispanic white women bear five or six children over the course of their lifetime. By contrast, 22.5 percent of these women never reproduce. The percentage of childlessness among women rises in a straight line with educational attainment."

Sarah Palin threatens the notion there only is one way to be a modern woman. Her political journey started in the PTA, not at Harvard or Yale Law School. She shops at Wal-Mart, not Barneys. And the more the Democrats caricature and underestimate her, the likelier it is they will alienate those middle American voters who will determine the outcome of this election.

Linda Chavez is a nationally syndicated columnist and political analyst for Fox News Channel. Contact her through her Web site, lindachavez.org.

The Facts

Main office: (979) 265-7411
 720 S. Main in Clute
Angleton: (979) 849-8581
 700 Western Ave. in Angleton
 Toll Free: (800) 864-8340
 Fax: (979) 265-9052
www.thefacts.com

MANAGEMENT

Publisher and Editor
 Bill CornwellExt. 105
General Manager
 Judy StarnesExt. 106

BILLING QUESTIONS

Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F
 Accounting(979) 237-0107
 Circulation(979) 237-0110

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY

Call (979) 265-2999
 Wet or missing paper:
 For same-day replacement service,
 call by 10 a.m.
Hours: 6 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F,
 6-10 a.m. on weekends
Circulation Manager:
 Glenn Blount(979) 237-0136
Home delivery: By 6 a.m. daily

PLACE A CLASSIFIED AD

Call (979) 265-7401
Classified Advertising manager:
 Dena Matthews
(979) 849-8581, Ext. 235
Hours: 8 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F
PLACE A DISPLAY AD
(979) 237-0130
Retail Advertising manager:
 Deana Lesco(979) 237-0122

THE NEWS STAFF

Call (979) 265-2223
Managing Editor
 Yvonne Mintz(979) 237-0144
Assistant Managing Editor
 Michael Morris(979) 237-0145
Features Editor
 Glenn Krampota(979) 237-0159
Sports Editor
 Joel Luna(979) 237-0160

Chief Photographer

Dan Dalstra(979) 237-0162
Senior Reporter
 John Tompkins(979) 237-0149
Reporters
 John Lowman(979) 849-8581
 Erin McKeon(979) 237-0152
 Nathaniel Lukefahr(979) 237-0151
 Katelynn Lanham(979) 237-0150
Editorial assistant
 Kristina Watson(979) 237-0148



Associated Press

People inspect damage Saturday after Friday's car bombing in Dujail, 50 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq.

At least 18 killed in Iraq

By Christopher Torchia
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD — Gunmen on Saturday abducted and killed four employees of an Iraqi television station who were filming a program about the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, one of a series of attacks in Iraq that left at least 18 people dead.

A bomb concealed in a kiosk used to sell ice killed four security personnel and wounded nine people at a checkpoint in Baghdad, Iraqi officials said. Northeast of the capital, eight Kurdish soldiers died in a roadside bombing that reflected how ethnic tensions remain dangerously high.

The attacks underscored the persistent threat in Iraq despite significant security gains since last year.

Al-Sharqiya television said its employees were seized at noon in the northern city of Mosul as they filmed an episode for a program about Iftar, the evening meal at which Muslims break their sunrise-to-sunset fast during Ramadan, which began this month.

The dead included Mussab Mahmoud al-Azawi, head of the station's office in Mosul, two cameramen and a driver.

An announcer on the station, which broadcasts to Iraq from Dubai by satellite, blamed the killings on "dark forces that are destabilizing the security in Iraq, silencing the voices of freedom and attacking the national independent media."

Brig. Khalid Abdul-Sattar, the police spokesman in Ninevah province, said two suspects were being ques-

tioned after a pistol and an assault rifle were found in their car in the area of the slayings.

Insurgents remain active in Mosul despite a U.S.-Iraqi offensive against them and setbacks in urban centers elsewhere in Iraq. Al-Sharqiya is owned by a former chief of radio and TV for Saddam Hussein and has been accused of being sympathetic to the former Baathists who once ruled Iraq.

Prominent employees of Al-Sharqiya have fallen victim to Iraq's violence in the past. Those slain include correspondent Ahmed al-Rasheed and Walid Hassan, a comedian who performed in a series that mocked coalition forces and Iraqi governments after the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003.

YouTube bans training videos

By Eileen Sullivan
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — The popular video-sharing site YouTube has moved to purge terrorists training films and other videos that extremist groups might use to attract new members, an imperfect process that will rely on users to report objectionable videos.

It's sort of like the post Sept. 11 advice — if you see something, say something. It's nearly impossible to vet every video when 13 hours of new video are uploaded every few minutes.

A quick search on Google-owned YouTube on Friday, one day after the new policies were posted, turned up several videos on how to

make bombs using, for instance, such household items as toilet bowl cleaner and tin foil.

In addition to barring terror training videos, the new YouTube community guidelines include bans on videos that incite others to commit violent acts, videos on activities such as how to make bombs and footage of sniper attacks. Previously, it had policies in place against showing people "getting hurt, attacked or humiliated," banning even clips OK for TV news shows.

YouTube has not identified specific videos on its site that led to the change, nor said exactly how it will choose those that are purged. YouTube does not deny extremist groups

could have used the site. The Internet has become a powerful tool for terrorism recruitment. What was once conducted at secret training camps in Afghanistan now is available to anyone, anywhere because of the Web. Chat rooms are potent recruitment tools, but counterterrorism officials have found terrorist-sponsored videos are also key parts of al-Qaida's propagand machine.

YouTube, large as it is, represents a fraction of the video content available on the Web. Videos can also be transmitted by e-mail or other means without ever appearing in a public forum like YouTube.

TEXAS/NATION

From wire reports

WASHINGTON Bush declares Texas a disaster areas

President Bush on Saturday declared a major disaster in Texas and Louisiana after Hurricane Ike flooded homes, knocked out power and caused a spike in gasoline prices.

"This is a huge storm that is causing a lot of damage not only in Texas, but also in parts of Louisiana," Bush said from the South Lawn of the White House after he had a video conference with Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff and David Paulison, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Later, at a news conference in Washington, Paulison issued warnings to people in the path of the weakening storm.

LOS ANGELES Rail agency: Engineer's error caused wreck

A commuter train engineer who ran a stop signal was blamed Saturday for the nation's deadliest rail disaster in 15 years, a wreck that killed 25 people and left such a mass of smoldering, twisted metal that it took nearly a day to recover all the bodies.

A preliminary investigation found "it was a Metrolink engineer that failed to stop at a red signal and that was the probable cause" of Friday's collision with a freight train in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, Metrolink spokeswoman Denise Tyrrell said. She said she believes the engineer, whose name was not released, is dead.

Authorities later announced the effort to recover bodies from the Metrolink train's crushed front car had ended, with the death toll at 24. It rose to 25 when USC Medical Center spokeswoman Adelaide DeLaCerna said a 50-year-old man transported to the hospital from the wreck died Saturday. She would not release his name.

Twisted Concepts Auto Accessories

- Grill Guards
 - Firestone Air Bags
 - Vent Visors
 - Economy Programmers
 - Bug Guards
 - Cold Air Intake Systems
 - Step Bars
- Your Auto Accessory Headquarters •
- 445 E. Plantation Dr. • Clute
(979) 265-TRUK (8785)

You Have A Choice

Nationwide
On Your Side™

and so am I!

All Insurance Policies Are Not The Same!

Are You Paying More For Less?

504A This Way • Lake Jackson • 979-297-0033

mayberd@nationwide.com *PRICES MAY-BERRY

HOME • AUTO • LIFE • HEALTH • COMMERCIAL

There are No Do-Overs at Retirement.

Retirement is too late to decide that your investment portfolio will not meet your needs. We specialize in solid, dependable financial advice designed to help you reach your objectives throughout retirement.

Contact us today for more information or to schedule a consultation.

Texas Gulf Investment Services
Rob Heckendorn
Branch Manager/Financial Consultant
203 This Way
Lake Jackson, TX 77566
Office: (979) 299-1308 x13110
Cell: (979) 285-5936
Email: rob.heckendorn@lpi.com
Website: www.lpi.com/rob.heckendorn

Securities Offered Through Linsco/Private Ledger • www.linsco.com • Insurance Products Offered Through PL Insurance Services of Texas, Inc. • Not FDIC Insured • No Bank Guarantee • May Lose Value • Not a Deposit • Not Insured by any Federal Government Agency

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN Pakistan pursues diplomacy with U.S.

Pakistan's government eased its rhetoric Saturday against unilateral U.S. attacks on militant havens near the Afghan border, saying it hopes quiet diplomacy will persuade Washington that the raids only inflame sentiment against leaders of both countries.

Defense Minister Ahmad Mukhtar claimed Washington already has agreed to curtail its military activities against militants in Pakistan, although a missile strike Friday killed at least 12 people.

Most U.S. cross-border activity has been limited to missiles fired by unmanned drone aircraft. But in a Sept. 3 attack, helicopter-borne U.S. ground forces were used in an operation that killed at least 15, an escalation of U.S. military force.



Associated Press

Supporters of a Pakistani opposition party Pakistan Tahrik-e-Insaf chant slogans Saturday in front banners reading 'we condemn the killing of innocents people in U.S. strikes in Pakistani tribal areas' during a rally in Karachi, Pakistan.

BEIJING China: Company knew of tainted milk for weeks

China's health minister blamed a dairy Saturday for the delay in warning the public about tainted milk powder linked to kidney stones in infants and at least one death, as authorities increased the number of

known sick babies to 432. The incident has been an embarrassing failure for China's product safety system, which was overhauled in an attempt to restore consumer confidence after a string of recalls and warnings around the world over tainted toothpaste, faulty tires and other Chinese-made goods.

Officials complained they were not alerted to the milk problem until Monday even though the product's maker, Sanlu Group Co., had received complaints as early as March and its tests found a banned chemical in the milk powder in August. The company ordered a recall Thursday.

**NEW DELHI
Bombs claim 18 in India**

A series of bombs exploded at a park and crowded shopping areas across India's capital Saturday evening, killing at least 18 people and wounding dozens. Muslim extremists claimed to be behind the latest in a recent wave of attacks that has killed more than 100.

The bombs were clearly timed for maximum bloodshed and panic. Placed in jammed shopping districts, the explosives began to go off just before sundown sending thousands fleeing in fear.

MOSES 66 SERVICE

- AUTO REPAIR
- USED CAR SALES
- TRAILER RENTALS
- DOLLY RENTALS

25th Anniversary

Stop by & Congratulate George on 25 Years of Service!

5 Circle Way, Lake Jackson, TX 77566

For more details/information on our services visit our website: moses66svc.com email: george@moses66svc.com or call 979-297-8086

GEORGE MOSES OWNER

WE ACCEPT

Monday-Friday 8:00 am-5:00 pm

Divorce Hurts.

Find Help at DivorceCare.

DivorceCare is a special weekly seminar and support group for people who are separated or divorced. DivorceCare for Kids is also a weekly class available for children ages 5-12, and is held at the same time and place as the DivorceCare classes for adults.

Call today for more information:

979-297-2496 979-798-2340

Sponsored by First Baptist Church Lake Jackson • Tuesdays 7-9 pm
Sessions begin September 16, 2008

Sponsored by First Baptist Church Brazoria • Sundays 5-7 pm
Sessions begin September 7, 2008

DIVORCE Care **DC4K**
DivorceCare for Kids

Staying

CONTINUED FROM COVER

winds started slapping against his raised apartment complex. But when the neighbor went into town to get supplies for the evacuation, he found Surfside Beach closed when he returned.

Without a phone, Wilkinson had no way of connecting with the neighbor and decided to raise a toast to the storm with a cold one.

He sat on his porch and downed beers to celebrate his stand against the elements.

"It was rainy and the winds were blowing," Wilkinson said. "There was all kinds of debris. Water started about four steps from the concrete and then it went up to almost the second floor."

Surfside Beach police attempted to pick Wilkinson up by truck before storm waters kicked up Friday and again later in the day by wading through shoulder-high water, Surfside Beach

Police Chief Randy Smith said.

Wilkinson, who had no transportation off the island, walks with a cane. The former Marine keeps fit walking from his apartment to the local Kitty's Purple Cow restaurant almost every day. But on Friday, he couldn't move through the rising waters.

Friends honked horns at Wilkinson as they returned to the island Saturday. With each passing cheer, Wilkinson yelled, "Yo!" before taking another drag of his cigarette.

But there was one problem. Without a neighbor to bum a ride and without open gas stations, Wilkinson was unable to restock his cooler with beer after the storm.

"I ran out of beer before the hurricane got here. It hasn't been fun since," he said.

Wilkinson reiterated he wasn't smart by staying in the apartment, but he said he probably would not leave if another storm approached his home of 30 years. He had pinned a frayed

American flag that had come unattached from a nearby pole to the outside of his patio as a reminder of the day he dared Mother Nature.

"I don't run from situations," he said. "But that doesn't mean I'm not stupid."

Gary and Kathy Broussard

A few miles away in Freeport, husband and wife Gary and Kathy Broussard fled their first-story apartment and ran to an upper-level unit rented by friends to get out of the storm's path. The two retirees were startled by the amount of damage the storm caused at the El Paraiso Apartments complex on Avenue J.

Pieces of aluminum siding and roofing were thrown across the grass, and many windows had been shattered.

"It was very, very intense and the wind shifted and we could hear things blowing out like the windows," Cathy Broussard said. "We could hear the windows blowing, but we couldn't see

where it was, and there was a lot of debris flying everywhere, as you can see."

After the storm passed, the couple walked across the lawn to their apartment. They found it in rather good condition. The windows were intact and only a small amount of water had gotten inside.

From now on, the Broussards plan to jump on a bus and get out of town when a storm threatens the area.

Jimmy and Sandra Oliver

Jimmy and Sandra Oliver spent the night in their home on Silver Bay Lane, on the north side of Lake Jackson. A bad experience with the Rita evacuation three years ago made them decide it was worth staying despite the risk.

"We had a nightmare experience with that," Sandra Oliver said. "We were on the road for 20 hours and never made it past Highway 290 in Tomball."

They made the trip with children and two pets in the car.

"We just boarded up and stayed," she said. "I was pretty calm. It was a long night and a long day. We were OK until the power went out and it started heating up with no air conditioner."

Still, something about a hurricane roaring and banging on the roof outside is a little more unnerving than the temperature, Jimmy Oliver said.

"The wind would sound like a freight train for a while, then it would die off," he said. "We have two big pecan trees in our backyard, and when those things would fall on the roof, we weren't sure what that was."

Allen Robicheaux

In Angleton, Allen Robicheaux said he was not worried about the storm as heavy winds blew outside throughout the night.

"I wasn't scared at all," he said. "I actually stayed up playing PlayStation 3. I just wanted to ride it out."

Robicheaux said the storm was comparable to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 that hit New Orleans. Robicheaux was visiting a friend when that storm hit.

"Before the flooding came (Katrina) wasn't nothing," he said. Joel South, of Angleton,

sat the storm out in his Angleton apartment and said he didn't worry too much about Ike.

South drove through town after the storm Saturday and found an open gas station at Highway 35 and 288 and decided to fill up.

"I was just driving around charging my phone," he said.

Though electricity was out in much of the county, South said he was frustrated that some parts of Angleton had electricity when his apartment didn't.

"That's irritating," he said. "It's like gosh, they have electricity, why can't we?"

Mark Watts

Mark Watts, of Angleton, runs a kite boarding business in Surfside Beach and evacuated to Cypress to ride out the storm. He returned to his Angleton home Saturday afternoon to ensure there were no intruders.

"Make sure nobody is ransacking my place," he said.

After seeing the destruction of Surfside Beach on television, Watts said he was saddened because the beaches, and kiteboarding, are a big part of his life.

"It just sucks," he said. "It's really not something I wanted to come back to."

Now

CONTINUED FROM COVER

trickling back into the county, he said.

"We may start getting calls in," he said. "We are still urging people to stay out."

Those who decided to stay should prepare for a long time, maybe more than week, without electricity, Rhyme said.

"They're going to have to get prepared for a long, miserable time," he said. "It will be like living back in the old days."

Evacuees in Bell County say waiting to go home and take a look first-hand at the damage, or lack thereof, in some places in Brazoria County, is torture.

"I just want to be back there and see how my apartment is," Clute resident Cynthia Davis said. "When I can see for myself is when I'll be all right."

Other evacuees echoed the same sentiments Saturday morning after they received information about their slightly extended stay in Bell County from the local news media.

Still, officials with the cities of Clute, Richwood and Lake Jackson ask people who fled in the face of Hurricane Ike stay away for a few days while fallen trees and power lines are removed and basic city services are restored.

They do not know how long that will be.

Neighborhoods in Clute suffered some damage, but the main issues there — as with the rest of inland areas — are power lines and impassable streets, Mayor Calvin Shiflet said. Authorities there stopped people at all entrances to the city, turning them away.

Clute has limited water and sewer service, operating on backup power, Shiflet said.

"We don't want to overload that," he said. "We're encouraging people to stay where they are and not come back until we get the streets cleaned up. It's already uncomfortable enough with electricity. There's no serious damage to homes or structures. We're asking them to wait."

Shiflet had no definite estimate on a time power would be restored.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew will remain in place indefinitely, a police spokeswoman said. Police are asking all residents who did not flee the storm to stay in their homes.

The situation was similar in Richwood. Neighborhoods fared well with no major glass damage and very few homes damaged by limbs, but fallen branches were everywhere.

FEMA ASSISTANCE

Those looking for Federal Emergency Management Agency assistance can call 1-(800) 621-3362 to register for disaster assistance. Resident also can visit the agency's Web site at www.fema.gov to register online.

Brazoria County Emergency Management Coordinator Kenneth "Doc" Adams said the agency should be here soon, though officials do not know when.

Richwood did not institute a curfew.

Lake Jackson did, and the 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. curfew is still in effect, City Manager Bill Yenne said.

Tree limbs and fences were down across Lake Jackson, but the vast majority of homes were intact. There was very little broken glass and since Ike brought less than the predicted 5 to 10 inches of rain, street flooding was minimal.

No stores or restaurants are open, no fuel is available, and without air conditioning, anyone returning will come back to heat and humidity, Yenne said.

"We're trying to get the power lines off the streets," Yenne said. "We'll do that all day today and tomorrow and hopefully then make an announcement on when people can come back."

City crews will work all day Sunday to clear streets and ensure basic services, Assistant City Manager Modesto Mundo said.

Because city services are being run off generators, Lake Jackson's water supply is limited, Mundo said. Residents who remained in the city should conserve water, he said.

"We're running a limited number of wells and have limited sewer capacity," Mundo said. "The water is fully treated and safe to drink."

EMS providers are concerned with the public health since hospitals are not yet on line and no doctors offices are open, Lake Jackson Director Fred Ortiz said.

"If they start trying to come back now with no electricity, it's going to get ugly for us," Ortiz said. "We hope they'll stay out a couple of days."

In the meantime, back at home those needing medical care in the county likely will be able to get it through the Catastrophic Medical Operations Center, Rosa said.

The organization, whose members are made up of hospital officials throughout the Greater Houston area, will help find medical services "somewhere" for those who need it, Rosa said.

"They coordinate all medical resources for the region," he said.



Rockin' deals on the latest music phones.

Hi-tech phones are more entertaining on America's largest 3G network.

LG Dare™

ALL TOUCH WITH INTEGRATED QWERTY
\$199.99

\$249.99 2-yr. price – \$50 mail-in rebate debit card. With new 2-yr. activation on a Nationwide Calling Plan.

Samsung Glyde™

THE BEST OF TOUCH AND QWERTY
\$79.99

\$129.99 2-yr. price – \$50 mail-in rebate debit card. With new 2-yr. activation on a Nationwide Calling Plan.

NEW Verizon Wireless Blitz™

SLIM SLIDER PACKED WITH FUN
\$49.99

\$99.99 2-yr. price – \$50 mail-in rebate debit card. With new 2-yr. activation.



Millions of songs. One little price.

Introducing V CAST Music with Rhapsody, a Verizon Wireless Exclusive. From top artists to hidden gems, get unlimited access to music for your phone and computer for one low monthly fee. **\$14.99** monthly access

Switch to America's Most **Reliable** Wireless Network.®

Call 1.888.640.8776

Click verizonwireless.com

Visit any store

VERIZON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS STORES Open 7 days a week. Technicians available at select locations.

FRIENDSWOOD 19222 Gulf Frwy. 281-212-1500
LAKE JACKSON 106 Hwy. 332 W. 979-480-0959
LA MARQUE I-45 S. @ FM 1764 409-978-2038
PEARLAND FM 518 @ Hwy. 288 713-436-1037

BUSINESS CUSTOMERS
1-800-899-4249

AUTHORIZED RETAILERS Equipment prices, models and return policy vary by location. Authorized Retailers may impose additional equipment-related charges, including cancellation fees.

- ALVIN**
The Mobile Store 281-756-9333
- ANGLETON**
The Mobile Store 979-849-5071
- GALVESTON**
The Mobile Store 409-741-9800



Activation fee/line: \$35 (\$25 for secondary Family SharePlan® lines w/ 2-yr. Agmts).
IMPORTANT CONSUMER INFORMATION: Subject to Customer Agmt, Calling Plan, rebate form & credit approval. Up to \$175 early termination fee/line & other charges. Offers and coverage, varying by service, not available everywhere. Rhapsody and the Rhapsody logo are registered trademarks of RealNetworks, Inc. Device capabilities: Add'l charges & conditions apply. Rebate debit card takes up to 6 weeks & expires in 12 months. Limited-time offers. While supplies last. Network details, coverage maps & V CAST Music w/ Rhapsody subscription details at verizonwireless.com. © 2008 Verizon Wireless. RDMP2

SPORTS TIP?
Send stories to
sports@thefacts.com
for Sports Editor Joel Luna

The Facts

Astros launching magical run, again

The Houston Astros were involved in a couple of coin flips Friday to determine probable playoff sites. To even fathom the Astros in this scenario this late in the Major League Baseball season is mind-boggling.

But then again, this isn't the Astros' first rodeo when it comes to winning when they must.



JOEL LUNA

In 2004, Houston put on a 36-10 run after manager Jimmy Williams was fired and Phil Garner took over. The Astros landed as the Wild Card representative and won their first-ever franchise playoff series by defeating Atlanta three games to two. They went on to lose in the NL Championship Series to St. Louis.

The 2005 season didn't start well for the Astros, who went 2-21 on the road and got off to a 15-30 overall mark by May 24. That year, the Astros became the first team since 1914 to overcome being 15 games under .500 to make the playoffs.

Houston made another magical run in 2006 when it reached its first-ever World Series, losing to the Chicago White Sox.

So what about this year? How will it end for Houston?

One thing is for sure, the Astros are making yet another late season run and have won 14 of their last 15 games. For the month of August they were 21-9, and after the All-Star break are 36-16, including a 9-1 September so far.

That's quite a second half for a team that at one point this year was 40-42 after the month of June, and 50-56 after July.

But the Astros are 80-67 on the season for a reason, and much could be said about the faltering play of Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Louis in the second half.

Some of Houston's success can be attributed to the resurrection of Roy Oswalt, who is 15-9 on the year and 8-1 after the All-Star break. His ERA has dropped from 4.67 to a current 3.54. This, after a 7-8 first half of the year and an ERA that reached a high of 9.00 at one point.

Several other players have played big roles in the resurgence, but none more than team captain Lance Berkman. The first baseman is hitting .328 with 100 RBI and 28 dingers.

Young stud Hunter Pence is not having a shabby year either with a .273 average, 75 RBI and 22 home runs. Miguel Tejada, who at one point this year probably didn't know if he was

■ See LUNA, Page 11A



Air Force linebacker Ken Lamendola, left, grabs Houston Case Keenum in the second half in Dallas. Air Force defeated Houston, 31-28.

Air Force bombs Houston

By The Associated Press

DALLAS — Air Force's offense couldn't have been better suited to play in the wind and rain brought by the edge of Hurricane Ike.

The Falcons ran the ball 71 times, didn't complete a pass and Air Force withstood a late Houston rally for a 31-28 win Saturday in a game moved to Dallas because of the hurricane.

Quarterback Shea Smith rushed for 97 yards and three touchdowns and Kyle Lumpkin added 76 rushing yards for Air Force (3-0), which passed only seven times — without a completion.

"We were expecting bad conditions so we were ready to run the ball," said Smith, an Odessa, native who played in front of 15 family and friends in the sparse crowd.

Air Force went without a completion

for only the fifth time in school history, and has won four of those. But in the first four games, the Falcons didn't even attempt a pass.

For Houston (1-2), Case Keenum completed 34 of 57 passes for 362 yards and four touchdowns. Keenum also ran for 98 yards on 10 carries, and tight end Mark Hafner had three TD catches for the Cougars.

The game, originally scheduled as a home game for Houston, was shifted to SMU's Ford Stadium because of the hurricane that made landfall early Saturday.

After monitoring weather forecasts, officials from both schools decided on Friday afternoon to move up Saturday's kickoff four and a half hours from a planned 2:30 p.m. start time.

Even with the change in venue, game

■ See COOGS, Page 11A

RIVALRY GAME



Notre Dame Fighting Irish players celebrate Saturday after a 35-17 win over Michigan in South Bend, Ind.

Shamrocked

Irish jump on miscues to beat Michigan 35-17.

By Tom Coyne
AP Sports Writer

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Jimmy Clausen threw two touchdown passes and Notre Dame took advantage of six Michigan turnovers to get some revenge for consecutive blowout losses to the Wolverines with a 35-17 victory Saturday.

Notre Dame started fast, grabbing a 21-0 lead with the help of two Michigan lost fumbles in opening minutes. Irish linebacker Brian Smith also returned a fumble 35 yards for a touchdown in the fourth quarter to put the game away.

Notre Dame didn't come away completely unscathed, however. Coach Charlie Weis was knocked over on the sideline by a Michigan player during a punt return in the first half and spent the rest of the game on crutches with his left leg wrapped.

The 18-point victory was the third largest in the 37-game series for the Irish (2-0), but well short of the 38-0 loss to Michigan (1-2) last year, part of a humbling 3-9 campaign for the Irish, and a 47-21 loss the season before.

Considering how sloppily Michigan played

■ See IRISH, Page 11A



Notre Dame wide receiver Golden Tate, right, picks up a second-quarter first down Saturday after getting past Michigan defenders Jonas Mouton, left, and Steve Brown in South Bend, Ind.

New date slated for Texans vs. Ravens

By Chris Duncan
AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Baltimore Ravens-Houston Texans game was rescheduled to Nov. 9 after Reliant Stadium was severely damaged by Hurricane Ike.

The Texans' home opener was originally scheduled for today, then postponed to Monday

night as Ike approached the Gulf Coast. The Category 2 storm slammed into Texas on Friday night and moved into Houston early Saturday morning.

Ike tore chunks off the stadium's retractable roof and the damage couldn't be fixed in time for the game, said Shea Guinn, the president and general manager of Reliant Park.

"There are parts of the roof that are completely gone," Guinn said.

The retractable roof on the \$352 million venue rolls open in nine sections. Guinn said five of the sections were missing and large pieces of debris had fallen into the stadium.

"It's hard to tell what came from where," Guinn said.

The Texans said alternate sites for Monday night were considered, but logistics made them impossible.

■ See TEXANS, Page 11A

NEW DATE



Baltimore at Houston, Oct. 26

NEXT UP



Houston at Tennessee, noon Sept. 21

TV: CBS



Fans flock for autographs Saturday from Dale Earnhardt Jr. at New Hampshire Motor Speedway in Loudon, N.H., the day before the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Sylvania 300 auto race.

Earnhardt working on 'awesomeness'

By Jenna Fryer
AP Auto Racing Writer

LOUDON, N.H. — Dale Earnhardt Jr. has 18 career victories, more than \$52 million in winnings and a perpetual hold on NASCAR's most popular driver award.

The only thing missing from his resume is a coveted Cup championship.

What would adding that elusive title mean?

"It would improve my overall awesomeness," Earnhardt declared.

Awesomeness? "Yeah. I worked on greatness for a while," he explained, "but I tapped it out."

The quest for "awesomeness"

begins today at New Hampshire International Speedway, where Earnhardt starts the Chase for the championship seeded fourth in the 12-driver field.

After a one-year absence, he's back in the title hunt and couldn't be more thrilled to be among the contenders. And there's no doubt whatsoever his enthusiasm is genuine.

Earnhardt was in a fantastic mood during NASCAR's two-day swing through New York City to promote the Chase, and tales of his humorous exploits and one-liners followed him from stop-to-stop as teammates Jeff Gordon and Jimmie Johnson asked for constant updates.

When Junior is on, everyone

wants to be part of the show.

And if he has it his way, the next 10 weeks will be an all-star performance.

He's statistically had better seasons — "I won six races in 2004, remember?" — but Earnhardt revealed this week he believes he lost the championship that year because he wasn't prepared to win one. He finished fifth in the final points standings that season, the first year of the Chase, and can rattle off a list of mistakes he made down the stretch that took him out of title contention.

He still drove for Dale Earnhardt Inc. back then, and

■ See JUNIOR, Page 11A

"Yeah. I worked on greatness for a while, but I tapped it out."

— Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Junior

CONTINUED FROM COVER

before this season, it was his last legitimate chance to win a title. He missed the Chase in 2005, was a non-factor fifth in 2006, and missed it again last year in his final season driving for his late father's race team.

Now he's with mighty Hendrick Motorsports, where Earnhardt has the equipment, support and freedom from both the pressure and drama that he was saddled with at DEI.

Everything is finally equal for Earnhardt, personally and professionally, and it shows.

"I think he's got a lot more confidence this year," said two-time series champion Tony Stewart. "He's always been confident off the track, but I think you see it in his driving on the track that he's got a renewed confidence that I don't think we've seen the last few years."

Kevin Harvick, who had the unenviable task of taking over the late Earnhardt's ride following his 2001 death, has also noticed a change in Junior this season that he equates to cutting ties with DEI and the troubled relation-

ship he had with stepmother, Teresa.

"He seems a lot more relaxed than what he used to be," Harvick said. "There is probably a lot more stress with the family business and having to answer to his dad's name, and I can kind of relate to that. It's getting into a situation where he is in more control of his own career and it's got to feel more comfortable and more rewarding than the situation that he was in before."

The pressure still remains, though, coming square at him from a rabid fan base that demands the son of the seven-time champion to add a title or two to his name.

Now, He's ready for it.

"I love the pressure. That means I'm in the middle of it," he said. "I wouldn't change anything about my world as far as in this garage and how I'm treated by my friends and drivers, and really what my position is in this sport. I wouldn't give it up for nothing."

At 33 years old and in the best equipment of his life, Earnhardt no longer has any excuses for falling short in his goals.

Texans

CONTINUED FROM COVER

The new date also affects the Cincinnati Bengals' schedule.

Houston was originally scheduled to play the Bengals on Nov. 9. Now, those teams will play on Oct. 26 and Cincinnati will take its bye week on Nov. 9, when the Texans now play the Ravens.

Baltimore had an open date on Nov. 9 on its original schedule.

Ravens coach John Harbaugh canceled Saturday's scheduled practice and will give players today, Monday

and Tuesday off. Baltimore plays Cleveland on Sept. 21.

"We will adjust. Our focus now turns to preparing for the Browns," Harbaugh said. "Without a bye, we believe we need to give the players the next few days off. We'll have a Cleveland game plan ready for them when they come in on Wednesday."

The Texans aren't scheduled to play at home again until Oct. 5, but Guinn said he wasn't sure when repairs could be completed. He said the stadium also sustained some water damage at street level.

Reliant Stadium sits next to the Astrodome. Guinn said

Coogs

CONTINUED FROM COVER

conditions were rainy, and winds from the outer edge of the storm gusted to 25 mph, sometimes making it difficult to pass and kick.

"The wind held the ball up a little," Keenum said. "It was slowing it down. But the weather is no excuse for how we played. Air Force came out hard and we didn't."

Houston's offense got off to a good start as Keenum was 8-of-9 for 79 yards in the opening quarter and a 7-0 lead on Keenum's 14-yard TD pass to Hafner.

Air Force's defense, entering the game fifth nationally in average points allowed (5.0) and ninth against the pass (99.5 yards), clamped down in the second quarter. Defensive coordinator Tim DeRuyter added more line stunts to the pass-rush scheme, and the Falcons sacked Keenum once and forced him into 10 incompletions in 19 attempts in the second quarter.

"We came out a little flat, but we had a chance to take the momentum," said Air

Force defensive end Jake Paulson, who had 7 tackles, 2 1/2 sacks, and batted down a pass. "It was a lot of the scheme-calls. It put us into position to make plays. Getting pressure on the quarterback makes all the difference in the world.

The Falcons took a 10-7 edge early in the second quar-

ter when Smith scored from 2 yards out. Air Force expanded its halftime lead to 17-7 on Savie Stephens' 7-yard touchdown run with five minutes left. The Falcons took the second-half kickoff and advanced 59 yards in eight plays, with Smith sprinting a career-long 41 yards to the 3 and Smith scoring from the

1 to make it 24-7.

Smith's 6-yard touchdown run with 4:25 left in the third quarter extended Air Force's advantage to 31-7.

Keenum threw a 25-yard TD pass to Andre Kohn with three minutes left in the third quarter, and Hafner's 7-yard TD catch with 10:11 to play made it 31-21.

PICK THE WINNERS. PICK UP SOME CASH.

Pick a winner for each of the games listed below and an exact score on the tiebreaker. The person who gets the most games correct and is closest on the tiebreaker based on correct pick and total points will win \$25 and be entered in a season-ending drawing for a \$250 grand prize.*

Limit one entry per person. Only entry forms clipped from The Facts will be accepted (no photocopies or faxes). All entries must be received at The Facts by 5 p.m. Thursday.

OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM: WEEK 4

Mark the box with your selection

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lutheran South at Danbury | <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia at Arizona St. (NCAA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Columbia at Houston Kashmere | <input type="checkbox"/> Wake Forest at Florida St. (NCAA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Houston Sterling at Sweeny | <input type="checkbox"/> Houston at Tennessee (NFL) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Palacios at Van Vleck | <input type="checkbox"/> New Orleans at Denver (NFL) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LSU at Auburn (NCAA) | <input type="checkbox"/> Jacksonville at Indianapolis (NFL) |

TIE-BREAKER: (list exact score) Dallas _____ at Green Bay _____

Your name _____
 Mailing address _____
 City/state _____ Zip _____ Daytime phone _____

MAIL TO: Facts Football Contest, P.O. Box 249, Clute, TX 77531

DROP OFF: at The Facts offices, 720 S. Main St., Clute, or 700 Western Ave., Angleton

*In the event of a tie after the tiebreaker, a winner will be drawn at random from the tied entries. One \$25 winner will be selected each week. Weekly winners remain eligible to enter in subsequent weeks. Employees and independent contractors of The Facts and their immediate family members are not eligible.

Irish

CONTINUED FROM COVER

in the second consecutive meeting between the two rivals with neither team ranked, it's hard to qualify this as a breakthrough victory for the Irish, but it certainly was sweet.

And it came on the same day Notre Dame honored former coach Lou Holtz by dedicating a statue of him before the game. Members of his 1988 national team, Notre Dame's last title winner, also were on hand for the victory.

The second half was played in a steady rain as the Wolverines made four of their six turnovers.

Clausen was 10-of-21 passing for 147 yards with two interceptions.

Steven Threet was 16-of-23 passing for 175 yards and a

touchdown with no interceptions for Michigan. Sam McGuffie ran for 131 yards on 25 carries and had four catches for 47 yards and a touchdown. The Wolverines moved the ball better than they did in their first two games in coach Rich Rodriguez's spread offense. They just couldn't hold on to it.

It started when Boubacar Cissoko fumbled the opening kickoff, but managed to recover and returned it to the 9. Four plays later, after Michigan was penalized 15 yards for an illegal chop block, Threet threw a lateral to Brandon Minor, who dropped it. Smith recovered at the 11-yard line, leading to the first of two touchdown runs by Robert Hughes.

On the ensuing kickoff, Michael Shaw couldn't handle the ball and Mike Anello recovered for the Irish.

their important three-game series against the Cubs has been moved by MLB officials because of Hurricane Ike.

Joel Luna is the sports editor for The Facts. Contact him at (979) 237-0160 or at joel.luna@thefacts.com.

Luna

CONTINUED FROM COVER

going to be on the field because of the steroid issue, has hit a hefty .287 with 63 RBI and 13 home runs.

One player that Houston has not had since he broke his pinkie finger Aug. 9 is Carlos Lee, who at the time had 100 RBI to lead the team and was one of the hottest hitters in the majors at that time.

Third baseman Ty Wigginton had 12 dingers in the month of August to help the cause and Darin Erstad has had some quality at-bats and field appearances off the bench.

All in all, the Astros are headed to another crazy finish, something they are used to and that should give them an advantage.

As for the coin flips on Friday, Houston will host Milwaukee if they have to determine the Wild Card winner with a single game.

But if Houston has to play either St. Louis or Philadelphia for that Wild Card spot, the Astros will have to travel to either city for a one-game playoff.

Houston is expected to get back on the field today at Miller Park in Milwaukee where the first two games of

LOWEST PAYMENTS NOW



GOE KAWASAKI
 1350 S. Hwy 288B • Angleton, TX
 979-849-3681
 www.goecycles.com

©2008 Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A. Offer good on all new, not previously registered Kawasaki motorcycles. 12% off MSRP. Dealer's price. Excludes taxes, license, title and other available accessories. See dealer for complete details.

Kawasaki
 Let the good times roll.

IT'S A genuine STEELMASTER!



STEELMASTER
 BUILDING SYSTEMS

866.927.1286 • www.SteelMasterUSA.com/TX

FREE AIR CHECK!
 PROPER INFLATION SAVES GAS!

\$25 EA
 TIRES FROM

TOURING
 \$37 P155/80R-13
 P185/65R-14...\$45
 P195/65R-15...\$50
 P205/65R-15...\$50
 P225/60R-16...\$72

PERFORMANCE
 \$47 P195/70R-14
 P195/60R15...\$50
 P205/60R-15...\$60
 P205/55R-16...\$75
 P205/60R-16...\$81

TRUCK/SUV
 \$55 P255/70R-16...\$92
 P265/70R-16...\$94
 P265/70R-17...\$114
 LT265/75R-16...\$116

PICK YOUR PACKAGE!

\$100 SAVE

\$100 MAIL-IN REBATE WHEN YOU PURCHASE ANY 4 TIRE & WHEEL PACKAGE WITH YOUR DISCOUNT TIRE CarCarONE™ CARD.

OFFER VALID FROM 9/15 TO 10/31/08. MAIL-IN REBATE OFFER. SEE STORE FOR DETAILS.



MICHELIN BFGoodrich GOODYEAR YOKOHAMA BRIDGESTONE Continental FALKEN PIRELLI

LAKE JACKSON • 151 Brazos Mall
979-393-2426
OR 979-299-1413

Go to **discounttire.com** to shop and make an appointment at your nearest Discount Tire store.
M-F: 8:00-6, SAT.: 8:00-5
OVER 700 STORES NATIONWIDE!

DISCOUNT TIRE
 AMERICA'S LARGEST INDEPENDENT TIRE DEALER

STATE OR LOCAL TAXES AND, WHERE REQUIRED OR CHARGED, STATE ENVIRONMENTAL OR DISPOSAL FEES ARE EXTRA.

1970 Ford F-100
 Warranty: 3 Months or 4,000 Miles
 Options: Rear Bumper, Radio, Power Steering

DONNY SHADDOCK

2008 Ford F-150
 Warranty: 5 Years or 60,000 Miles
 Options: Moonroof, DVD, 6 Disc CD, Heated Leather Seats

"Many Things Have Changed Since I Started Selling Fords But The Same Great Service Remains The Same!!"

HOME OF THE #1 SELLING TRUCK IN AMERICA FOR 30 YEARS
THE FORD F-150 • COMPLETE INVENTORY OF F-SERIES TRUCKS

The only Lincoln-Mercury Dealer in Brazoria County!
I SERVICE WHAT I SELL!!

Ford Bobby Ford LINCOLN Mercury

1200 N. Hwy. 288B, Clute/Richwood • 979-265-4224, ext. 267

LOOK THERE

Facts photographers hit the ground in Brazoria County after Ike passes to find it covered in debris.



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

A house at Quintana Beach that lost several of its support beams to the surge from Hurricane Ike remains standing Saturday afternoon. Quintana did not seem to be hit as hard as its neighbor, Surfside Beach.



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

The scattered remains of Gulfstream Yacht Service are thrown around the intersection of Sailfish and Kingfish in Surfside Beach. Many homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed by the winds and waves of Hurricane Ike.



A building in Angleton damaged by fire last year was partially caved in after being pelted by winds from Hurricane Ike late Friday night or early Saturday morning.

DAN DALSTRA/The Facts



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

The sky takes on an eerie color above the Freeport Police Department after dusk Friday night as Hurricane Ike approached the Brazoria County coastline.



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

Downed telephone poles, street signs, rocks and debris fill a flooded road at Surfside Beach. The flood waters and wind from Hurricane Ike destroyed several homes and left the area scattered with debris.



DAN DALSTRA/The Facts

A home that once sat on the ocean side of Beach Drive was pushed against a house that used to be across the road. A sign on the blue house reads, "I don't like Ike."



DAN DALSTRA/The Facts

Billy Rose, a marshal with the city of Jones Creek, points out a tree that fell on Jones Creek Baptist Church. Rose said he and others were out early Saturday assessing the damage from Hurricane Ike and were able to clear the roads quickly with help of residents armed with chainsaws.



HOLLY PARKER/The Facts

A window at the Sun Shine Washeteria on Highway 288 in Freeport lies outside the business in the parking lot Saturday morning.



DAN DALSTRA/The Facts

Freeport police officers Derrick Miller and Marty DeLeon stop traffic bound for the city, telling residents no one was allowed into the city Saturday afternoon while crews were still assessing the damage.