



A-team pummels Athens in Bullard Middle School action

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Lady Panthers sweep Palestine



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BULLARD BANNER NEWS

50¢

The community newspaper

Vol. 12 Issue 52 - 10 pages

50 cents

Bullard, Texas 75757

September 17, 2008

Postage paid at Bullard and other area post offices.

Hurricane Ike



Photo by Jim Epperson

Crews saw a giant osage orange tree, or Bois d'arc that blocked Henderson Street in Bullard. The massive Bois d'arc was uprooted during Hurricane Ike.

Evacuees uprooted from Ike's wrath

Jim Epperson
Bullard Banner News

Earthae Sneed, 66, of Beaumont fell asleep in a hard chair in the Flint-Gresham Volunteer Fire Department. Her chin fell to her chest as a television showed the most amazing videos caught on tape.

Sneed is just one of millions who fled from the wrath of Hurricane Ike, and she is one of thousands who will stay in East Texas until authorities say it is safe for her to return. State officials said Monday there

are still at least 37,000 evacuees housed in public shelters as of Monday.

"They are telling me we might not be able to leave for three weeks," she said after waking from a nap. "I just want to get back home."

She left the refrigerator and freezer full of food, and with Beaumont out of power she knows she will return to a mess. As cities like Beaumont and Galveston are still without essential services, people who fled the storms path are sitting in shelters for an unknown amount of time.

The oil-stained concrete floor at the fire department looks cold. Small cots are placed in rows in the back of the fire station. The cots are comfortable, unless you have to use your backpack as a pillow, which some did.

But pillows had just arrived.

Steve McCraw, the state homeland security director, said there were at least 284 mass shelters in Texas; 19 shelters are in the Tyler area. He said there were more

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Strong winds rip through county

Jim Epperson
Bullard Banner News

A giant pecan tree fell in Marjorie Roper's yard when the eye of what was left of Hurricane Ike passed through Bullard.

Like Roper's pecans, many trees across East Texas snapped or were completely uprooted. There were roughly 87 trees that had the same fate and blocked roadways in Smith County, and 58 places where power lines were down. The county had about two roads closed due to flooding and high water. And the county knew of 12 homes where trees landed on them. And one business roof collapsed in Troup.

"I remember when my mom planted these trees about 80 years ago," Roper said, who is a lifelong resident of Bullard.

A tree fell on Carroll Chaffin's truck that sat in his driveway. Chaffin, who lives in Bullard, said he never lost electricity but the tree damaged the top and bed of his truck. And a huge Bois d'arc tree fell behind Austin Bank.

The Bullard fire department responded to about 20 calls this weekend. Most of the calls were from trees blocking roads. But they also responded to a house fire on Saturday



Photo by Jim Epperson

Marjorie Roper's pecan tree uprooted like many trees across Texas.

and a hay barrel fire of Sunday. Both fires were storm related, Bullard Volunteer Fire Department chief Keith Newburn said.

Approximately 11,000 Smith County residents were without power on Monday, and there were 500 repair personnel working to restore power.

The Smith County Road and Bridge Department cleared more than 100 road sites by Saturday night, Smith County Commissioner JoAnn Fleming said.

"Smith County has damage assessment teams out at this time checking for the extent of damage to our area," Fleming said Monday.

City races to fill grant requirements

Jim Epperson
Bullard Banner News

Bullard officials are trying to meet a deadline to receive a state grant for a project that will hook 40 homes to Bullard's sewer system and could pave the way for future development.

Homes and most businesses on the east side of State Highway 69 run on cisterns. But a new \$250,000 grant from the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) will help low to middle income residents hook up to the main sewer system.

"The bidding is delayed to get some of the easement acquisitions taken care of," City Engineer Brian Capps said.

In June of 2007 Bullard was awarded the grant from ORCA, and the city has a finite deadline of June 2009 to finish the project. But so far no construction has started as the city is trying to gain easements from the school district and property owners. Once this is completed, construction will start.

The design of the project is complete and the city is "We will be working right up to the deadline," Capps said.

The city must receive easements from the school board and one final property owner who is reviewing a contract, Capps said.

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Austin Bank to open 25-year-old Time Capsule

It was a long time ago. But during this time, The A-Team debuts. Microsoft Word is released. Ronald Regan is president. Gas is a little more than a dollar. Michael Jackson is a star.

And in a bank in Bullard, a group of tellers and bankers gather cultural items to place inside a time capsule. No telling what is in it.

But, Austin Bank, formerly First National Bank of Bullard, will unseal a time that was locked away inside the walls of the bank 25 years ago. The CAPSULE will be displayed to the public 5 p.m. Wednesday, September 17th at the Bank of Austin in Bullard.

A reception will immediately follow the opening of the CAPSULE in the Austin Bank lobby.

The year was 1983. Bullard was a small community with a population of 890. Houston Street ran through the small quiet town consisting of a 4-way stop, U.S. Post

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Red, White and Blue Festival needs sponsors

As preparations are being made for the Red, White and Blue Festival in November, organizers are asking for donations.

The Red, White and Blue Festival is Bullard's biggest event of the year that honors area veterans. The festival has entertainment, carnival rides, food vendors and a parade.

"We still need donations to help fund Bullard's biggest event of the year," said Chris Thompson, who is on the Red White and Blue Festival.

Call the Chamber of Commerce for donations or sponsorship opportunities at (903) 894-4238

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