

# Editorial

## Through Dorris' Eyes... An example of slow freedom, justice

## TSU to honor expelled Freedom Riders with degrees; planning

TSU to honor expelled Freedom Riders with degrees NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Forty-seven years ago, 14 black students from Tennessee State University were beaten and arrested during the "Freedom Rides" that helped integrate the South. For their courage they were expelled from school, and informed of that decision while still incarcerated in Mississippi. On Thursday, the historically black university plans to make amends by presenting the former students with honorary degrees, four of them posthumously. The Freedom Rides were bus trips designed to challenge segregation in areas of the deep South that were unwilling to accept the integration of interstate travel facilities. In Dorris Ellis 2005, a group of then-current TSU students began researching the expelled students with the idea of awarding degrees. The Tennessee Board of Regents approved the degrees in April, reversing a vote taken a month earlier that had been widely criticized.



For their courage, they have undoubtedly earned less salary in wages than those who chose not to fight for freedom and yet they benefit still today for the work of others who were their peers. It does not seem fair nor does it have the flavor or color of justice. Men and women who sit in positions often not understand the path to those positions. We must educate ourselves so that we can act with authority and knowledge. For example, little did the residents of Houston and the Gulf Coast area to our south would have believed that three years following the destruction of Katrina that there would be a male storm named Ike. The devastation of Ike has left a broad path of about 600 miles on the Gulf Coast and has traveled from Texas north to Missouri and east to New York leaving death and destruction behind. The people in this storm have fewer faces. For they were told to "Shelter in Place" making the impacted population invisible. Hurricane Katrina struck the New Orleans area early morning August 29, 2005. The storm surge breached the city's levees at multiple points, leaving 80 percent of the city submerged, tens of thousands of victims clinging to rooftops, and hundreds of thousands scattered to shelters around the country. Three weeks later, Hurricane Rita reflooded much of the area. The devastation to the Gulf Coast by these two hurricanes has been called the greatest disaster in our nation's history (Times-Picayune, 2005).

In the aftermath of Gulf Coast Hurricanes Katrina (2005) and Rita (2005), Governor Rick Perry, Texas realized that he needed to do more and learn more about safety conditions for the citizens of his state. Therefore, following the lead of Houston's Mayor Bill White and Harris County Judge Robert Eckels, appointed an 11 member Task Force on Evacuation Transportation and Logistics. The goal of the group was to find ways to improve evacuation procedures for major metropolitan areas in Texas and plan for such storms a Hurricane Ike.

The Texas Emergency Evacuation plan has four elements. They are: 1.) Traffic and Travel Infrastructure; 2.) Command and Central Communication; 3.) Authority and 4.) Specific Needs such as health care and fuel availability which are specifically mentioned in the plan.

As we make the quick assessment of the implementation of the plan, element two seems to be the only one that worked and through communications we learned that element three, was questionable. I was shocked to learn that critical care centers such as dialysis centers were not equipped with generators so that they could provide the life-maintaining serve to their patients. Maybe this problem is a result of poor planning where owners and managers did not make use of resources and information on critical needs and disasters.

May God bless and I will see you next week.

## State editorial

By The Associated Press

A sampling of editorial opinion around Texas:

The Dallas Morning News on Houston's capabilities to handle Hurricane Ike: What a heartbreak to see shattered communities along Texas' coast after mammoth Hurricane Ike roared out of the Gulf like a tropical nightmare.

Most of us have friends or family from the Houston-Galveston area. Many of them will need help getting their lives back on track in the weeks ahead, perhaps without a workplace to go to and probably without electrical power for some time.

In the near term, uncounted thousands who evacuated are agonizing over what they'll find when they can get past the roadblocks and return home. Desperate questions about specific neighborhoods overflow Internet message groups. One after another starts with "any news about what happened to ...?" For most, there have been no answers.

The response to Ike was a case study in lessons learned, with both good results and bad. Texas emergency planners improved on the chaotic evacuation before Hurricane Rita three years ago, when everyone seemingly jammed on the freeways at once. This time, a more orderly, closest-to-the-coast-first procedure got more than a million people out of Ike's path. Enough fuel was on hand to avoid a repeat spectacle of drivers running out of gas in mass interstate traffic jams. State,



## FEMA News

## Texas recovery emergency distribution

AUSTIN, Texas — In advance of Hurricane Ike, local and state logistical planners identified a network of community centers to serve as designated Points of Distribution (POD) for life-sustaining commodities. Now as communities start to recover, PODs may no longer be needed.

The PODs, set up in hard-hit areas to provide people with short-term, emergency needs for food, water and ice, are run by local governments,

with help from the Texas Governor's Division of Emergency Management (TXGDEM) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). As a community begins to recover — when power is restored, the water supply is safe, and stores begin to reopen — PODs no longer are needed. The reduction in the number of PODs not only is a positive sign in the community's recovery process but also supports local businesses.

FEMA manages a supply and distribution chain so that when a major disaster threatens, emergency supplies such as water, meals, generators, cots and blankets can be moved to national and regional logistics staging areas. For Hurricane Ike, the State of Texas established a network of private sector companies to provide supplies to the PODs and get emergency supplies quickly into the hands of its citizens.

Supplies will continue to be trans-

ported to local PODs as long as the local authorities feel they are needed. When power returns and stores reopen, the need for the distribution of commodities is eliminated, and residents can then return to using retail businesses. Supporting local businesses help the community speed up recovery.

More information is available online at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or [www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem).

### State Update

From Column 1 local and federal officials deserve credit.

But the memory of Rita was probably responsible for many coastal residents stubbornly ignoring mandatory evacuation orders as 40 percent of vulnerable Galvestonians did. They remembered how the island was all but deserted three years ago after predictions that Rita would make a direct hit. She didn't.

This year, predictions were more dire. "Certain death" was predicted for Galvestonians who stayed behind. Lifelong coastal residents know better that nothing is certain when it comes to the capricious fury of tropical winds.

It's hard to fault public officials for doomsday warnings like New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin's "mother of all storms" proclamation before Gustav last month because their heart is in the right place. In all probability, the words "certain death" saved some lives this time, but we worry about the next.

The reality is that most Galvestonians woke up to an inundated, battered, rubble-strewn island. One of the casualties of the storm was the memorial to the 8,000 or so who died in the 1900 hurricane, the worst natural disaster in the nation's history. That memorial was pulverized and strewn about on the very seawall that was built to protect the island from another cataclysm. For the most part, it did.

Galveston, and much of the Houston area, will need to summon the same grit and determination in rebuilding as they did in bracing for Ike. And they will need our help and prayers. Some people will have lost loved ones; others their homes and all material possessions. The stresses will be enormous and long lasting.

### Bible

#### Proverbs 21 NIV

6 For the LORD gives wisdom, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.  
7 He holds victory in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,

8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones.

## Hurricane Ike Recovery Update

Dear Neighbors,

I hope you and your family made it through Hurricane Ike safely. Hurricane Ike was one of the most powerful storms to hit Houston in decades. Many of us watched the storm blow through Houston late Friday evening only to survey the damage Saturday morning and find tree branches and debris blocking our streets, homes without electricity or water or damaged roofs or cars.

I applaud the community spirit that Houstonians have shown in helping each other recover from Hurricane Ike, and city and county officials have done an excellent job in trying circumstances in responding to this crisis. We should all remember though

that there will be moments of frustration in the days and weeks ahead as our city recovers. Dealing with damaged property, insurance claims, a lack of electricity or cranky children (or adults!) can be a trying experience for anyone. As difficult as the next few weeks will be, be sure to take a deep breath every now and again and realize we are all in this together as we deal with the damage this storm brought to Texas a few days ago.

My staff and I have put together some information that might be helpful to you in recovering from this storm, which you can find below. Please copy or forward this to any friends, family or neighbors for whom you think this information might be helpful.

## Hurricane Ike restoration information

### Current POD Locations in Houston and Missouri City

Points of Distribution offices are scheduled to change.

NEW: Sharpstown Mall, 7500 Bellaire Blvd., Houston  
Church Without Walls, 5314 Bingle, Houston  
Community of Faith, 1023 Pinemont, Houston  
Faith Church, 2104 Underwood, Houston  
Fountain of Praise Worship Center, 13950 Hillcroft, Houston  
Grace Community Church, 14505 Gulf Freeway, Houston  
Greater Jerusalem Cosmetology School, 8901 Jensen, Houston  
Greenspoint Harvest Time Baptist Church, 17770 Imperial Valley, Houston  
Houston Community College Southeast Campus, 6815 Rustic, Houston  
Kipp Polaris Academy, 9634 Mesa Dr., Houston  
New Life Fellowship Church, 2104 Underwood Rd., Houston  
New Light Church, 7317 East Houston, Houston  
Raul C. Martinez Annex, 1001 S. Sgt. Macario Garcia, Houston  
Ripley House, 4410 Navigation, Houston  
Second Baptist Church, 6400 Woodway, Houston  
St. Agnes Church, 3730 South Avenue, Houston  
Texas Southern University Parking Lot, 3600 Rosewood, Houston  
Tinseltown Theater, 11450 East Fwy, Houston  
Veterans Stadium, 2901 Dabney, Houston  
Windsor Village, 6000 Heatherbrook, Houston

Zion Lutheran Church, 3606 Beauchamp, Houston  
Missouri City Hall, 1522 Texas Parkway, Missouri City

### METRO Locations Near PODs

METRO is continuing its efforts to help the community return to normalcy, and would like to inform the public of METRO bus routes that are in close proximity to POD sites.

The following routes are approximately within a half-mile of the POD sites listed below:

40 Pecore, 45 Tidwell, 64 Lincoln City Community of Faith  
15 Fulton, 52 Hirsch, 78 Irvington Davis High School  
47 Hillcroft Fountain of Praise  
6 Tanglewood, 45 Tidwell, 83 Lee Road Greater Jerusalem  
56 Airline, 86 FM1960, 102 Bush/IAH Greenspoint Harvest Time Church  
20 Canal, 48 Navigation Raul C. Martinez Annex  
20 Canal, 42 Holman, 48 Navigation Ripley House  
6 Tanglewood Second Baptist Church  
29 TSU/UH Hirsch, 30 Cullen, Texas Southern University  
2 Bellaire, 68 Brays Bayou, 73 Bellfort West University Elementary School  
14 Hiram Clarke, 33 Post Oak Windsor Village UMC  
9 N. Main, 24 Northline Zion Lutheran

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