

MAYOR CITY CNCL CITY ATTN CRIM MCKAMIE RIDGWAY(2) DECK BROWN
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Hurricane: Evacuees arrive with survival on their minds

HURRICANE IKE

“I didn’t want to spend time getting plywood. I just locked my gate and took my family.

Jose Angel De Leon, who left Houston

Shelters

Jose Angel De Leon gathered his important papers, packed his truck and left Houston at about midnight early Friday.

“I didn’t want to spend time getting plywood. I just locked my gate and took my family,” he said.

Traffic crawled along at 15 to 20 mph for much of the journey.

It was 3 p.m. when De Leon — along with three families of relatives — arrived at the Midway Recreation Center in Euless. The center was expected to be maxed out with 90 evacuees from the Houston area by evening.

Most arrived by about 11 a.m. Friday, when volunteers served pizza for lunch. By midafternoon, many were sleeping after spending all

night on the road, said Ray McDonald, Euless parks and community services director.

Glasses in the building have been moved while the center hosts the evacuees. Cots are lined up in the gym. Rooms are set up with computers and televisions so that evacuees can check e-mail and monitor news reports. Pool and foosball were being played in the lobby.

For now, De Leon says the evacuees will all do one thing. “Wait,” he said. “Wait to see what will happen.”

Doug Peters, senior minister at North Davis Church of Christ in Arlington, said his church was prepared to house up to 150 evacuees. A busload of people was scheduled to arrive in the evening, he said.

The church hosted evacuees from Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005 and assisted 140 people who fled from Hurricane Gustav last week, Peters said.

“We’re ready, and we want to help,” said Peters, who added his church has about 50 volunteers and staff members on standby.

Staff writers Mitch Mitchell, Susan Schrock and Jessamy Brown contributed to this report.

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OBITUARIES

THELMA IRENE SMITH 1919-2008

Arkansas native raised her brother's daughter as if she were her own

She also ran Irene's Beauty Shop in Euless and was married to former Police Chief Harold "Smitty" Smith.

By **BRYON OKADA**
 okada@star-telegram.com

KELLER — Irene Smith never had a baby, but she was very familiar with the role of mother.

The oldest child of cotton farmers from Almyra, Ark., she often cared for her two brothers and sister while her parents worked in the fields.

Early on, she took in her brother's daughter, Glenda, raising the 4-year-old as her own.



After her first marriage ended in divorce, she took on two jobs to make ends meet. During the day she worked at the Comet Rice Mill in Stuttgart, Ark., and then served beer and sandwiches at a bar at night.

In 1956, after hearing that there were good jobs in North Texas, she moved with Glenda to Grand Prairie. She went to beauty school — and in the process met a police detective named Harold Morgan Smith, whom everyone referred to as Smitty.

Eventually the couple married and became mainstays in the nearby town of Euless. Ms. Smith opened Irene's Beauty Shop on Euless' Main Street in 1961 and it flourished until about 1980, when she retired, family members said. Smitty joined the Euless Police Department in 1963 and eventually became police chief, retiring in 1981.

The two then moved to be near friends in Louisiana. Smitty died in 1988. Ms. Smith stayed in Louisiana until four years ago, when Alzheimer's disease made it impossible for her to care for herself. However, in her last two years, while she lived in a Keller care center, her eyes would still light up whenever she saw Glenda.

"I think she knew I belonged to her," Glenda Thomas said.

Ms. Smith died Wednesday. She was 88.

Her family remembers her as someone who loved company, babies and fishing. She was also known for cooking pies with flaky crusts.

For many years, she stored big bottles of shampoo on the front porch for use at her beauty shop.

According to one family story, before the beauty shop opened, Ms. Smith watched over granddaughter Tiffney Woodside by putting her in the bathtub while she cut hair. And then there's the time Ms. Thomas accidentally washed her daughter's hair with gasoline, mistaking it for one of the big bottles of shampoo.

"There were always silly things like that going on," Woodside said.

As for how Ms. Smith fit into the family tree, there was no confusion.

"I've called her Mother all my life," Thomas said.

Woodside said, "She was an awesome grandmother."

Other survivors include her sister Dorothy Papp of San Antonio.

She will be buried today in the family plot in Stuttgart, Ark., next to Smitty.

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HURRICANE IKE | AFTERMATH

Emergency workers raise funds

Five Tarrant County fire and police associations raised \$2,500 this week to buy food, water and clothing for Houston-Galveston-area dispatchers, police officers and firefighters who have rarely left their posts since Ike hit the Texas coast Saturday.

The Bedford, Euless, Grapevine, Hurst and North Richland Hills associations collected the money.

Several local authorities will head to the Texas coast today to deliver the items.

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AREA BRIEFS

Euless church seeks donations for storm victims

EULESS — First United Pentecostal Church of Euless is accepting donations for hurricane victims. Items needed include nonperishable food such as breakfast bars, peanut butter, bottled water and baby formula. Also needed are diapers, toothpaste, toothbrushes and other toiletries. Drop-off hours are 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays; 8:30 a.m. to noon Saturdays. The church is at 709 Midway Drive. Information: Call 817-267-0254 or e-mail lsheppard@fupceuless.org.

— Terry Lee Goodrich

12-year-old on bike is hurt in traffic accident

EULESS — A 12-year-old boy riding a bicycle was injured Tuesday when he was hit by a pickup that failed to stop at an intersection, police said. The pickup driver, identified as Donald Strickel, 52, of Euless, was arrested on suspicion of drunken driving, police said. He remained in the Euless Jail on Wednesday with bail set at \$750. The boy, who was not identified, was taken to Harris Methodist H.E.B. Hospital in Bedford for treatment of minor injuries, police said. The collision occurred about 4:30 p.m. Tuesday in the 500 block of West Euless Boulevard. The boy was riding through the intersection of West Euless Boulevard and Skyway Drive when he was hit, police said. The driver stopped his pickup immediately after the accident, police said.

— Domingo Ramirez Jr.

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ENERGY

Coalitions OK 'unprecedented' 24-year contract with Luminant

The groups include about 150 Texas cities and municipal organizations.

By **JIM FUQUAY**

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Arlington, Grapevine, Burleson and about 150 other Texas cities and municipal organizations have agreed to buy most of their electricity over the next 24 years through an unusual contract with Luminant Generation.

The Cities Aggregation Power Project has since 2001 negotiated to buy power for its members, which include cities and utility districts. It called the 24-year term of the latest agreement, announced Thursday, "unprecedented" and said it could save its 111 members hundreds of millions of dollars over its life.

Also participating in the contract is the South Texas Aggregation Project, a smaller group. The groups previously contracted for power over terms of one or two years.

Under the terms of the Luminant contract, members of the two groups will pay 5.6 cents per kilowatt-hour for electricity in the first year, said Austin lawyer Kristen Doyle, counsel to CAPP. That will rise 3 percent annually, which would put the cost at about 11.4 cents per kwh after 24 years.

That price does not include the cost of power transmission and distribution, which currently averages about 2.5 cents per kwh in North Texas. That charge is regulated by the Texas Public Utility Commission.

To get that price, however, CAPP members must agree to prepay part of their electricity bills that is designed to cover Luminant's fixed costs of generation. CAPP will sell long-term bonds to finance that payment, which could

amount to between \$400 million and \$600 million depending on how many members participate, Doyle said.

And that's good for Luminant and its parent, Energy Future Holdings, which took on tens of billions of dollars in debt when it bought TXU Corp. in 2007.

"Cities have very good credit ratings and access to cheaper capital than Luminant or Energy Future Holdings might," Doyle said.

She said that each member, whether through its city council or board of directors, must decide whether to participate in the contract. Some, including Grand Prairie, have already approved it and most are expected to take it up in the next two weeks, she said.

Electricity bought under the contract can be used only for the municipalities' own power needs, such as street lights and utilities. State law prohibits the cities from reselling power to residents, Doyle said.

Luminant spokeswoman Ashley Monts said the amount of power covered by the contract is enough to serve about 75,000 average Texas homes. That's not a huge amount as industrial power contracts go, but its length is exceptional, she said.

She said five years is a fairly common term for commercial and industrial contracts, and 10 years is considered very long.

"We have never had anything close to this. It's a really long contract," Monts said. "The rate is capped, and we have a customer locked in along with the prepayment."

It's estimated that the contract will cover about 70 percent of CAPP members' annual usage.

JIM FUQUAY, 817-390-7552

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NORTHEAST CLICK

FabEules: Join conductor Sergio Espinosa and the Irving Philharmonic Orchestra for "Blast Off," a concert under the evening stars, at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 27 at the Village of Bear Creek Amphitheater. It is a narrated travelogue of a trip into space using instrumental groups in the orchestra to tell the story. Lewis Warren Jr., a

12-year-old Eules resident and pianist, will be the special guest. By age 8, Lewis was performing in competitions nationally and internationally. What a treat for \$5 admission. You can purchase tickets at the Midway Recreation Center. It's lawn seating, so bring your chairs and blankets.