

Grocery, hardware stores packed as Texans prepare for hurricane

Storm coupled with full moon could produce very high tides

GALVESTON (AP) — As Hurricane Jerry churned up the Gulf of Mexico Sunday and continued to lumber toward shore, Texas residents stocked up on bottled water and batteries and secured their homes and boats.

"We're jam-packed," Joey DeRanier, service manager at Randall's grocery store, said. "They're picking up water, batteries, everything. We opened at 7 a.m. — the regular time — but I don't know what time we'll close."

Twelve checkers were busy with long lines of customers, another employee said. "It's been packed all morning," she said.

At hardware stores, customers bought nails, masking tape and other supplies to secure their homes and windows. But one clerk said it was too late for many to erect plywood covering on their windows.

"With this late a warning, there's not a lot you can do," said Roy Straw, who was running his brother's Straw Fox Hardware on Jamaica Beach Sunday.

"There's nothing you can do now," Straw said. "The winds are picking up, and it's starting to

rain. People can't handle plywood in the wind and rain."

He said many of his customers would be leaving the beach areas, and he planned to close his store by 2 p.m.

Bob Fields, a National Weather Service specialist in Houston, said the full moon already was producing high tides up to a foot above the normal 1 1/2 to 2 feet above sea level.

"The storm could put those tides up to 6 to 9 feet in the Galveston area if it hits right," Fields said.

"It's the wind force (of the storm) that's pushing the water onto the shore," Fields said. "It has a scooping effect into the Galveston Bay. If the storm hits at precisely the right point, it could cause flooding. If it hits east of us, you'll have considerably less in the bay."

Galveston Mayor Jan Coggeshall asked residents to take precautions such as moving lawn furniture and other outdoor equipment inside, or tying it down.

"I think it's an unusual situation that we have this lunar tide at the same time that we have a

hurricane," Mayor Coggeshall said.

Boat owners in the area moved their vessels, tying them down throughout the day.

Bonnie Hughes, manager of Galveston Yacht Basin, said many boat owners with outdoor slips had found harbor in the 500 slips she oversees.

"A lot of other boats are coming from other marinas because we have covered slips," she said. "We'll secure them in the slip and let them spend the night here until the storm's over."

She was advising owners of vessels with high masts or towers to dock them outside. "If their boat has a tower, it's apt to go through the roof," Hughes said.

City Manager Doug Matthews said officials were asking Houston residents not to come into the city after 3 p.m. because they could become trapped on the causeways leading into town.

Meanwhile, the city had opened its first shelter at Alamo Elementary School. Gary Stone, spokesman for the Emergency Operations Center, said residents from the west side were being advised to move to hotels or shelters in the downtown area where they could be protected by the seawall.

Air force jet crew dies in crash; Fort Worth officials investigate

FORT WORTH (AP) — An Air Force jet on a training mission crashed Sunday morning at Carswell Air Force Base killing both people on board, a base spokesman said.

The F-16 fighter crashed about 9 a.m. at Carswell, said 1st Lt. Stephen Norton, base spokesman. The names of those killed were not released because relatives had not been notified, he said.

Norton, reading from a prepared statement Sunday afternoon, told the Associated Press: "Access to the crash site is restricted pending cleanup of the fuel spill following the crash and of unspent ammunition which was on board the aircraft."

He did not elaborate. Fort Worth police were asked to help direct traffic around the base following the crash, said Pamela Hawkins, a dispatcher.

The jet was assigned to the 944th Tactical Fighter

group, Air Force Reserve, stationed at Luke Air Force Base near Phoenix, said Luke AFB spokesman Captain Joe Davis.

Norton said the aircraft was en route from Dallas Naval Air Station to Carswell on a training mission when it crashed.

A board of Air Force officers was being convened Sunday afternoon to investigate the accident, he said.

Sunday's fatal crash was the second accident in three days. Earlier in the week, an Air Force RF-4C jet went down in a pasture near Bangs killing one of its two crewmen.

In that crash, 1st Lt. James M. Poppo Jr., who was piloting the plane, died. The weapons system operator ejected safely.

The RF-4C was stationed at Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, about 150 miles from Bangs in central Texas.

Democrats approve ethics for campaigns

AUSTIN (AP) — To discourage negative campaigning in the March 1990 primary, county Democratic leaders in Texas have created a "Code of Campaign Ethics" for all statewide contenders.

In an unprecedented move, the county chairmen also have decided to form a special monitoring committee, the *Dallas Morning News* reported Sunday.

"We've seen too many instances where Democratic opponents beat each other senseless and whoever comes out of the primary is so weak, they can't stand up to the Republican," Ron Gay, Brazos County's Democratic Party chairman, said.

Some Republican consultants are worried as well about the need to rein in their candidates, the newspaper said. But GOP officials plan no formal action, saying they doubt the Republican field will hit below the belt.

Gay, president of the county chairmen's association, said he will ask all statewide Democratic office-seekers to sign a pledge to abide by the code. Those who "step over the line of fair campaigning" would be publicly reprimanded, he said.

The proposal is similar to a tactic used by Texas Republican officials in 1986. Then-state GOP chief George Strake made the three Republican gubernatorial candidates sign an agreement that they would follow the party's "11th Commandment" — speak no ill of another Republican.

But current Republican Chairman Fred Meyer said he does not see any reason for such a requirement in 1990.

"I don't think we're going to have the kind of primaries the Democrats are going to have," Meyer said.

Shrimpers without turtle devices may receive fines beginning today

HOUSTON (AP) — Shrimpers could be fined \$8,000 or more starting Monday if caught with nets that lack turtle excluder devices, gates that allow endangered sea turtles to escape from the nets without drowning.

Shrimpers, who had hoped that President Bush would grant a last-minute reprieve, complain that the devices, known as TEDs, cause them to lose nearly a third of their catch. Government studies have shown losses of 5 percent to 10 percent.

Although shrimpers have been required to use TEDs since Sept. 8, until Sunday the federal government had forgiven the penalties — at first in whole and later in part — if a shrimper bought and installed a TED after being caught without one.

But beginning Monday, a shrimper can be fined \$8,000 for a first offense and \$15,000 for a second. A third offense could cost \$15,000 and confiscation of the shrimper's vessel, catch, or both.

The change in enforcement won't change how the U.S. Coast Guard monitors shrimp boats, Lt. Scott LaRochelle in Galveston said.

"What we've been doing in normal law enforcement operations is stopping boats randomly while in the water," LaRochelle said. "If we happen to stop shrimp boats we'll check for TEDs."

The Coast Guard reports violations it finds to the National Marine Fisheries Service, which imposes the penalties.

"Our policy remains unchanged," said Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Robert Morehead, in New Orleans. "We still continue to look for TEDs in routine boardings. As far as the Coast Guard is concerned, there was never a stoppage of that."

Pat Philben, a Coast Guard spokesman in New Orleans, said compliance with the TEDs regulation is improving. He and Gene Proulx, a National Marine Fisheries Service enforcement official, agreed that compliance is very good off Florida and good along Texas, but said it is poor off Louisiana.

LaRochelle said Coast Guard officials in the Galveston area have reported about 50 percent compliance of TEDs on shrimp boats they searched.



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Comes on strong, then it's gone

Wesley Otken, a junior from Company K-1 of the Corps of Cadets, picks up a beer can Saturday morning. Otken's outfit picks up

trash from the horseshoe portion of Kyle Field at 7:30 a.m. Saturdays after every home yell practice.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING CLASS

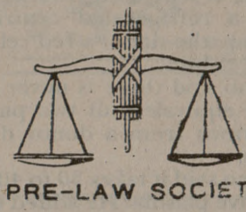
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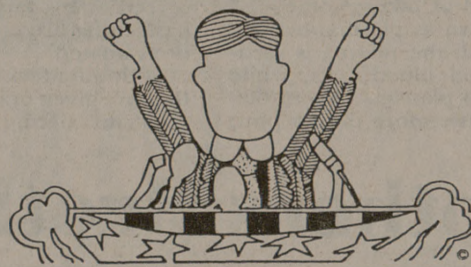
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