

THE DAILY NEWS

BIZ BUZZ » WEST MARINE TO HOIST SAILS » A5

SENIORS DAY AT RODEO »

Even heavy rains could not dampen spirits on Seniors Day in the Entertainment Pavilion at the Galveston County Fair and Rodeo » A9



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TEXAS CITY REMEMBERS THE 1947 DISASTER



The city of Texas City held its annual 1947 Texas City Disaster Memorial service at city hall Monday. Above, Texas City firefighter Sean Coutorie plays taps. Top right, a Texas City resident holds a white carnation. Bottom right, John Quinn, a survivor of the disaster, tells his survival story. Below, Cpl. Carlos Alcocer, with the Texas City police department, and Shonna Bellow, assistant fire marshal, place wreaths outside city hall.

Photos by JENNIFER REYNOLDS
The Daily News



» Go to galvnews.com to read more about the Texas City Disaster in The Daily News' special report. There, you also will find photos and video of Monday's ceremonies.



"I don't want Republicans to run with me weighing them down," Jason Murray said.

Murray decides to step down

District clerk no longer wants to be a 'distraction'

By T.J. AULDS
The Daily News

Embattled Galveston County District Clerk Jason Murray said he will resign in the next two weeks, saying he has become a "distraction." Murray met with Dis

See Murray | A:

SpaceX to launch

BUSINESS

West Marine to hoist sails on shop

On deck: Boating is big in the Clear

Lake area, home to 17 marinas and more than 7,000 slips. And it hasn't gone unnoticed by the nation's largest specialty retailer of boating supplies and accessories.

Watsonville, Calif.-based **West Marine** is charting the course for a May 3-6 grand opening of its newly remodeled store, 1401 Marina Bay Drive. Defying a tough economy, the League City retailer has done well enough to double in size.

At 25,000 square feet, the store will boast the largest high-tech marine electronics selection in Texas, West Marine officials said. New amenities also include a "Fishing Shack" with a local focus on saltwater.

The store also will include an on-site sailboat rigging shop with an expanded sailboat hardware department and an engine parts counter. **Nolan Vander-Haagen** is the store's manager.

Rooftop report: Could it finally be hammer time at **Grand Cay Harbour** in Texas City? **David Weekley Homes**, the primary builder in the development, is expected to obtain permits for the first four houses in the development by early May, city officials report.

Galveston Peninsula Partners is the developer. The 574-home subdivision on 250 acres where the Texas City Dike meets the tide gate at Moses Lake is nearly



Biz Buzz

Laura Elder is a reporter for The Daily News. Biz Buzz appears Tuesdays and Thursdays. Email your tips and suggestions to laura.elder@galvnews.com.

a decade in the making. Crews have been busy in recent months preparing the site for development, which is behind the tide gate, meaning homes can be built on slabs instead of stilts, an appealing prospect to homebuyers.

Financial problems and the economy delayed the project for years. In May 2010, the project's developer at the time, **Grand Cay Harbour Ltd.**, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection from which it has emerged under new owners.

Orange you glad? Frozen yogurt purveyor **Orange Leaf** is planning an island franchise. The Oklahoma-based chain plans to scout into 6606 Seawall Blvd., in the space formerly occupied by **Dippin' Dots**.

Orange Leaf, with more than 115 stores, is known for colorful store interiors and decadent flavors, including "Birthday Cake" and "Snickerdoodle." Look for the shop to open by Memorial

Day, which is May 28. **Dave Bridgwater**, of **Joe Tramonte Realty**, represented Orange Leaf in the lease transaction. **Don Mafriage**, who owns the shopping center in which Orange Leaf soon will be a tenant, represented himself.

Who sells your favorite frozen yogurt? Join the Buzz Blog discussion, galvnews.com.

Lafitte feat: Developers transforming the **Jean Lafitte Hotel** into an 83-unit apartment complex in the island's downtown are reporting major headway. The **ITEX Group**, which is behind the development called **2101 Church Street Apartments**, said reconstruction of the historic property is about 15 percent complete. The apartments should be ready for occupancy by the year's end.

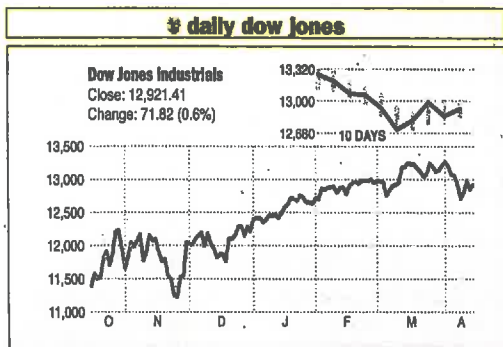
But while there's been a lot of work, there's very little to see, said **Chris Akbari**, executive vice president of The ITEX Group. Most of the work, which began in December, has been demolition and abatement or has been sub-surface, Akbari said.

The old plumbing, duct work and even elevators have been removed, as such as all lead-based paint and asbestos, Akbari said.

"We have addressed site drainage issues, driven piles to provide adequate structural support and even raised the ground floor by 12 inches to meet the 11-foot elevation floodplain requirement."

Financing for the project comes from several sources — \$3 million from the sale of historic tax credits from a federal program meant to encourage preservation, \$5 million from a Community Development Block Grant administered for disaster recovery after Hurricane Ike struck in 2008, a \$2.8 million Federal Housing Administration-backed loan from **Davis Penn** and equity from The ITEX Group.

The government funding comes with stipulations, including that the developer set aside 46 units for people earning 80 percent or less of the median income.



stock market indexes

52-Week High	Low	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg
13,297.11	10,404.49	Dow Industrials	12,921.41	+71.82	+0.6	+5.76	+5.80
5,627.85	3,850.66	Dow Transportation	5,234.65	+37.61	+0.7	+4.28	+4.4
487.84	381.99	Dow Utilities	456.24	+4.14	+0.9	-1.82	+10.60
8,718.25	6,414.89	NYSE Composite	7,949.57	+18.47	+0.2	+6.32	-3.96
2,496.89	1,941.89	Amex Market Value	2,338.76	+5.42	+0.2	+3.53	-0.8
3,134.17	2,299.89	Nasdaq Composite	2,988.40	-22.93	-0.8	+14.71	+9.25
1,422.38	1,074.77	S&P 500	1,399.57	-0.9	-0.06	+9.30	+4.94
1,018.65	791.82	S&P MidCap	955.54	+1.13	+0.12	+8.83	-0.9
14,851.57	11,208.42	VIX 5000	14,598.90	-11.48	-0.08	+8.07	+3.78
868.57	601.71	Russell 2000	798.08	+1.79	+0.2	+7.71	-2.85

stock exchange highlights

nyse	amex	nasdaq
7,949.57 +16.47	2,358.76 +5.42	2,988.40 -22.93

GAINERS (\$2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
AnrFilly	3.05	+0.71	+30.2
BkAI A/s	5.94	+0.55	+9.2
Sealy cr/16	72.95	+6.16	+8.2
PSC/Eat	92.17	+7.17	+8.4
Falvo Int	3.82	+0.29	+8.2
Timothy	2.53	+0.18	+7.1
SD Sys s	26.28	+1.86	+7.6
Talbots	2.85	+0.19	+7.1
Bluegreen	5.34	+0.33	+6.6
Coyote	5.33	+0.33	+6.6

LOSERS (\$2 or more)

Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
E-Comm	8.63	-1.56	-18.3
YFF Soc	13.30	-2.45	-18.2
London	5.31	-0.33	-6.1
NBSG n/A	5.42	-0.32	-5.8
ForbusSty	3.81	-0.33	-8.0
SequansC	2.24	-0.19	-7.8
TerraNet	28.70	-2.20	-7.8
Gannett	13.89	-1.15	-7.8
QIHoo360	20.14	-1.64	-7.5
CobaltEn	26.35	-2.03	-7.2

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 on change)

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
BkAI Am	2082038	8.79	+11
SAP500ETF	1377222	137.05	-0.9
SPDR Finl	1082588	15.24	+11
SHENet	605143	41.85	-0.2
NovusCp	604030	4.09	+0.7
SprintNet	553700	2.51	-1.7
Bar PVtx	495685	14.59	-3.0
Citygr s	450258	34.00	+5.9
SH2K	417440	78.67	+3.3
JP Morgan	388020	43.33	+1.2

DIARY

Advanced	Declined	Unchanged	Total Issues	New Highs	New Lows	Volume
1,724	1,305	117	3,146	58	51	3,405,582,332

stocks of local interest

Name	Vol (00)	Last	Chg
Vringo	182217	3.97	+0.9
Dreams	135090	3.40	+0.79
CheniereEn	104409	16.99	+1.3
NovusCp	35735	6.63	-0.36
NovaO&G	22478	18.00	-0.4
GoldStg	18212	1.54	-0.06
Reitach	17680	2.10	-0.08
NovCp	17521	9.48	-0.22
UrakumEn	14578	2.65	-0.21
LucasEngy	13828	1.81	-0.28

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