

# BEAUMONT ENTERPRISE

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BEAUMONTENTERPRISE.COM THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2026 VOL. 146, NO. 225 \$2

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## Big Thicket offering July 4 cruise, events

By Kim Brent  
STAFF WRITER

Those looking for a different place to watch Beaumont's Fourth of July fireworks display can book a spot aboard the Ivory Bill.

The Big Thicket Association, which operates the river flatboat and Eco-Art Tours, is hosting a two-hour evening excursion along the Neches River and its by-

ways before returning to the marina to watch the fireworks show in the night sky, with the display reflected in the river below.

The excursion begins at 7:30 p.m. at Beaumont RV & Marina, 650 Marina Drive. The Ivory Bill will travel through the Neches River's backwater channels in Big Thicket National Preserve before returning to the marina for the fireworks show.

The event will feature natural

sights along the Neches, including dense cypress trees, foliage and wildlife, before the fireworks display from the riverbank.

Reservations are required for the 28 available seats. Tickets are \$40 per person.

Guests may bring snacks. The Ivory Bill will provide music, games and prizes.

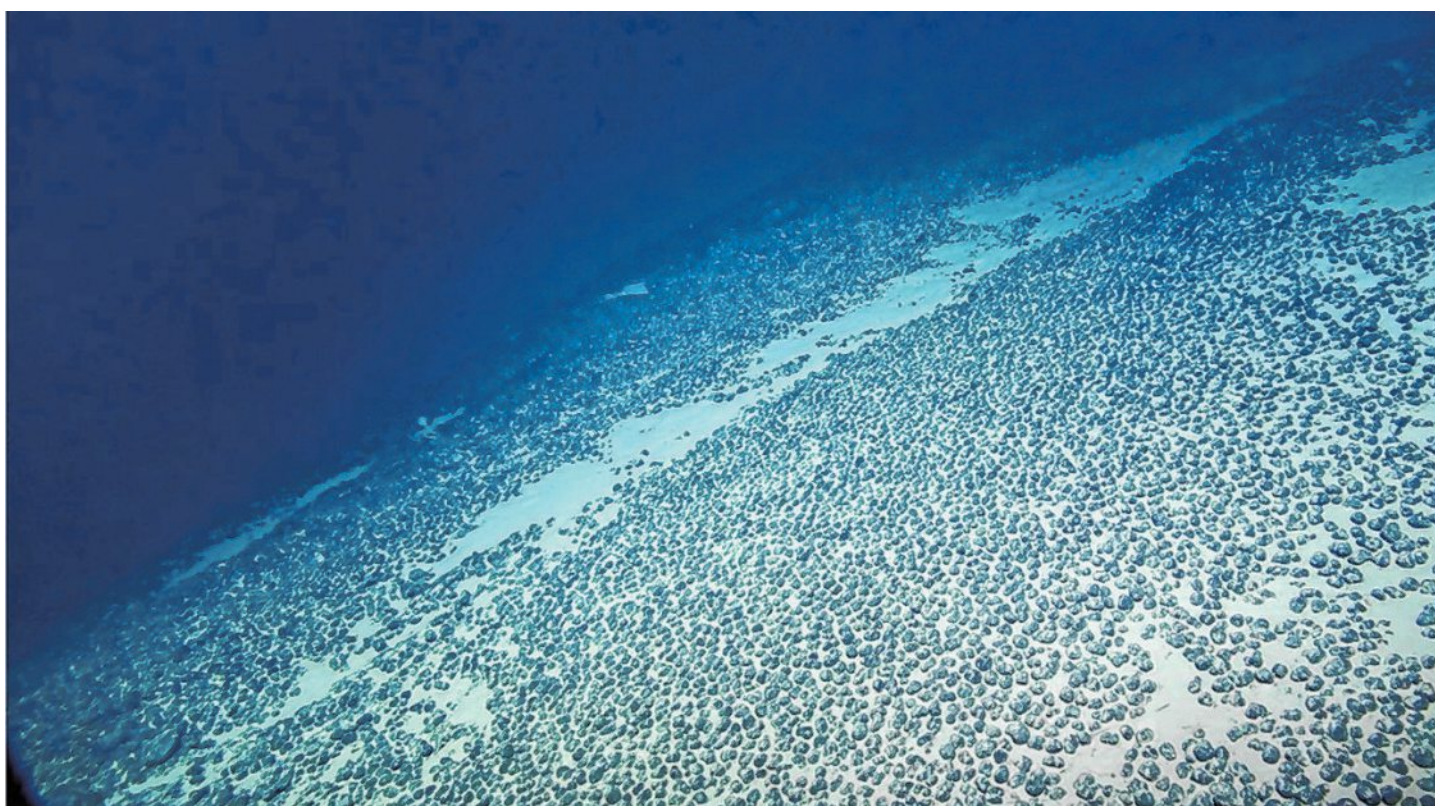
Registration information is available on the Big Thicket website.



Kim Brent/Beaumont Enterprise file photo

**Ivory Bill Captain Bill Klein holds Mitchell Tatom as he rings the bell upon docking during a 2019 Neches River tour.**

## Gulf Coast a finalist for minerals plant site



Photos courtesy of Frank Maisano

Polymetallic nodules are metal-rich, rocklike lumps found on the deep seafloor.

Metals processing project would be first of its kind for U.S.

By Tessa Noble  
STAFF WRITER

A site in the Gulf Coast region of Texas is one of four finalists for what Glomar Minerals and Cobalt Blue Holdings Ltd. described as the country's first polymetallic nodule processing facility.

The companies said in a news release that the finalists are two sites in the New Orleans area, another in Brunswick County, N.C., and one in the Gulf Coast region of Texas, about an hour from Baytown.

The companies said the finalists were selected after a na-



**One polymetallic nodule contains four metals essential to modern manufacturing: manganese, cobalt, nickel and copper.**

tionwide review of more than 30 sites. Factors included transportation access, infrastructure, workforce availability, industrial development potential and proximity to reagents and export markets.

The finalists will undergo technical and economic evaluations, the companies said. Glomar Minerals and Cobalt Blue said they plan to work with state and local officials, community members, economic development organizations and workforce leaders during the process.

Project Infinity would re-  
**Plant continues on A6**

## Beaumont police seek tips in fatal shooting

By Megan Zapalac  
STAFF WRITER

The search is on for additional tips to help solve a Beaumont homicide that occurred this week in the city's north end.

Sinclair Collins, 64, was found dead from gunshot wounds on Tuesday by a Beaumont Water Department employee.

Around 10 a.m. Tuesday, Beaumont Police went to the 2900 block of Astor Street after getting a call about a deceased person discovered near a drainage ditch, with fishing equipment found nearby, according to Beaumont Police spokesperson Sgt. Haley Morrow.

Detectives are asking residents in the area with surveillance cameras to check footage between 8 p.m. Monday and Tuesday morning for any suspicious activity.

Investigators are also looking to speak with anyone who recently saw or communicated with Collins to establish a timeline leading to the shooting.

The investigation remains ongoing, and anyone with information is encouraged to contact the Beaumont Police Department at 409-832-1234 or Southeast Texas Crime Stoppers at 409-833-8477. Tips can also be submitted through the P3 Tips app. All Crime Stoppers tips remain anonymous, and tipsters may be eligible for a cash reward.



Beaumont Police Department

**Beaumont Police are investigating the homicide of 64-year-old Sinclair Collins, who was found dead Tuesday.**

## Acadian Ambulance celebrates 20 years of service in Texas



Google Maps

**Acadian Ambulance has 2,000 Texas-based employees and operates nearly 500 ambulances and vans across Texas.**

By Bianca Thomas  
STAFF WRITER

Acadian Ambulance is marking 20 years of operations in Orange County in June.

Acadian has 2,000 Texas-based employees, including EMTs, paramedics, dispatchers, van operators, emergency medical services instructors, fleet maintenance workers and support staff. The company operates nearly 500 ambulances and vans across Texas.

In that time, Acadian Ambulance of Texas has responded to

thousands of emergency calls, provided patient transportation and invested in equipment and employee training, according to the company.

Acadian Ambulance is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Ambulance Services.

"We are incredibly honored to have served the state of Texas for 20 years," Acadian Ambulance President Justin Back said. "This milestone is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our paramedics, EMTs, dispatchers, and support staff who work tire-

lessly every day to provide exceptional prehospital care. We are grateful for the trust placed in us by our first responder partners, city council members, local elected officials and EMS districts, hospital partners, and community members. We look forward to many more years of service."

Acadian Ambulance also has offered CPR and first aid training, participated in local health fairs, established Explorer posts for high school students, and worked with fire departments and law enforcement agencies on public safety efforts.

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