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EXTREME WEATHER

Officials urge caution: Ice, freezing temps approach

By RUBEN IBARRA JR.
The Lufkin Daily News

City officials, transportation crews and local service providers are urging residents to prepare and use caution, as a widespread winter storm is expected to bring freezing rain, icy roads and dangerously cold temperatures to East Texas later this week.

Forecasters warn that the winter storm, expected to impact large portions of Texas and the South, could create dangerous travel conditions and increase the risk of power outages, particularly in areas unaccustomed to prolonged ice events.

"This storm is a rare high-impact storm for

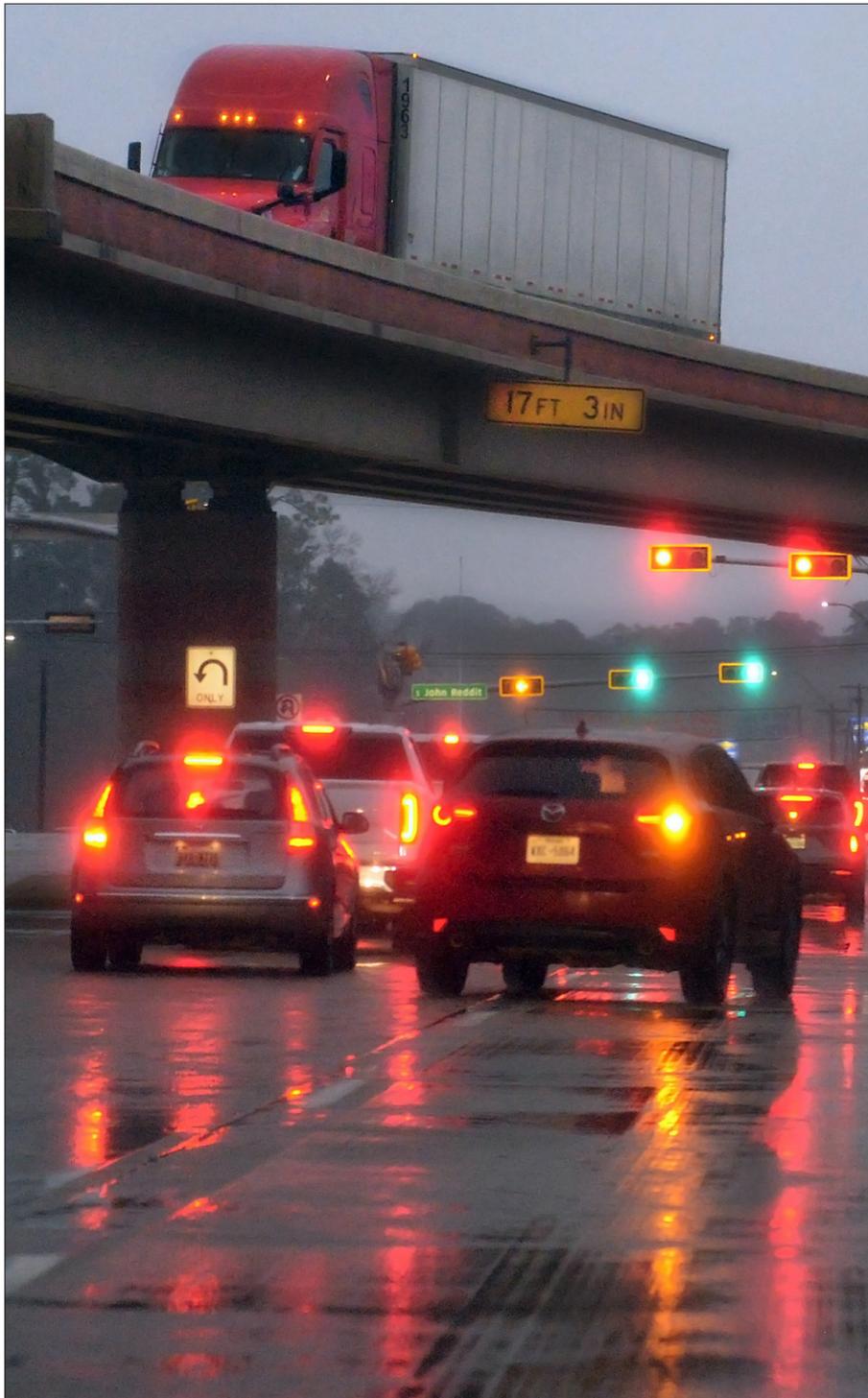
SEE WEATHER, PAGE 3A

Winter Event-Total Accumulations Forecast

Most Likely Amounts Through Sunday



Rainy roads



JOEL ANDREWS/The Lufkin Daily News

Motorists navigate the increasingly wet roads at the intersection of U.S. Highway 59 and South John Reddit Wednesday evening in Lufkin. Rain is back in the forecast today and Saturday, with precipitation Saturday turning into an icy mix that is expected to extend through Sunday, according to AccuWeather.

EDUCATION

Byrd leaves lasting mark on Central ISD

More than four decades after big shot, Lady Dogs' legend remembered in retirement ceremony

By JOSH HAVARD
The Lufkin Daily News

POLLOK — More than 40 years after helping lead the Lady Bulldogs to the 1984 state basketball championship, Central fans still vividly recall Anita Byrd's exploits on the hardwood.

As it turns out, back in 1984, her impact on Central ISD was just beginning. She spent the last quarter of a century serving the school in a variety of different capacities. Whether it was on the court, in the driver's seat of a bus or in the principal's office, she left a lasting legacy.

Recently, a library full of friends, co-workers and family were on hand to wish her the best on her retirement from Central ISD.

"God has used Central to grow me spiritually," Byrd said shortly after her retirement ceremony. "He gave me a means of serving people and loving people. What a joy it has been, sincerely. I've had the best parents, the best students, the best staff, and I think that was evident today."

The 1984 Central team ended their remarkable season as state champion after a narrow 37-36 win over Hale Center in the state championship game.

But the single athletic memory that stood out for those in attendance that day — as well as many of those in attendance Wednesday morning — was her game-winning 16-foot jump shot that took down West Sabine 50-49 in the regional finals.

That West Sabine team was led by Teresa Weatherspoon, one of the greatest women's basketball players in the history of the sport. She would go on to be inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame, the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and the WNBA's 20th Anniversary



BRIANNA ALVIS/For The Lufkin Daily News
Anita Byrd accepts a plaque for 26 years of service at Central ISD.



CONTRIBUTED
Anita Byrd sits next to the state championship trophy in 1984.

Team in addition to winning an Olympic gold medal for America.

But it was Byrd, then Anita Smith, whose shot kept her from a state title that season. That basket was the final one in a 16-point performance in a 50-49 win.

"Her basketball team went to the state tournament and won it, and it was all because of her," Dwight Lyons said.

Tracy Butler shared her memories of seeing Byrd play in high school before eventually working alongside her.

"I got a job, and lo and behold, she was working here," Butler said. "Even though you were in your 20s, you were an icon. I've learned so

SEE BYRD, PAGE 3A

EDUCATION

19 resilient grads earn diplomas at learning center

By WILLIAM LANIGAN
The Lufkin Daily News

■ Stubblefield graduates ready for next chapter

Page 2A

Lufkin ISD's Hackney Learning Center held its second graduation ceremony Thursday evening inside the Lufkin Middle School auditorium. Each of the center's 19 purple robe-clad graduates processed in to the strains of "Pomp and Circumstance March No. 1" by Edward Elgar.

Hackney principal Adam Craft welcomed everyone in attendance and school counselor Rosa Salais gave the opening prayer. Soon-to-be graduate Jiya Garrett led the pledges of allegiance.

"None of these graduates reached this day alone," Craft said, before introducing the school's faculty and staff and district administrators, including LISD Superintendent James Hockenberry and Trustees Kristi Gay and Delphina Hadnot-Maxie.

Craft thanked graduates' friends and family members for loving and supporting the graduates, adding that the day would not have been

SEE HACKNEY, PAGE 2A

Floor routine



ANGEL AREVALO/For The Lufkin Daily News
A member of the Lufkin Parks & Recreation Cheer Team shows off her skills at halftime of the Angelina College men's basketball game Wednesday. The Roadrunners took a 62-56 win over Lamar State College-Port Arthur at Shands Gymnasium. For coverage, see Page 2B.

