

strike Louisiana, meaning it surpassed even Katrina, which was a Category 3 storm when it hit in 2005. The hurricane's top wind speed of 150 mph put it among the strongest systems on record in the United States. Not until 11 hours after landfall did Laura finally lose hurricane status as it plowed north and thrashed Arkansas, and even by Thursday evening, it remained a tropical storm.

The storm came ashore in low-lying Louisiana and clobbered Lake Charles, an industrial and casino city of 80,000 people. On Broad Street, many buildings had partially collapsed, and those that didn't were missing chunks. Windows were blown out, awnings ripped away and trees split in half in eerily misshapen ways. Police spotted a floating casino that came unmoored and hit a bridge. At the local airport, planes were overturned, some on top of each other.

In front of the courthouse was a Confederate statue that local officials had voted to keep in place just days earlier. After Laura, it was toppled.

"It looks like 1,000 tornadoes went through here. It's just destruction everywhere," said Brett Geymann, who rode out the storm with three fami-

on air conditions. State and federal aircraft headed into the skies over the coast to look for signs of any other industrial damage.

The fatalities included a 14-year-old girl and a 68-year-old man who died when trees fell on their homes in Louisiana, as well as a 24-year-old man who died of carbon monoxide poisoning from a generator inside his residence. Another man drowned in a boat that sank during the storm, authorities said.

No deaths had been confirmed in Texas, which Gov. Greg Abbott said would amount to "a miracle." President Donald Trump planned to visit the Gulf Coast this weekend to tour the damage.

More than 580,000 coastal residents were ordered to join the largest evacuation since the pandemic began and many did, filling hotels and sleeping in cars. Although not everyone fled from

over years of spreading COVID-19, and Edwards was concerned that the storm would inhibit coronavirus testing at a time when schools and universities are reopening.

Bucky Millet, 78, of Lake Arthur, Louisiana, considered evacuating but decided to ride out the storm with family due to concerns about the coronavirus. He said a small tornado blew the cover off the bed of his pickup and made him think the roof on his house was next.

"You'd hear a crack and a boom and everything shaking," he said.

The force of Laura's winds blew out every window of the living room in the Lake Charles house where Bethany Agosto rode out the storm with her sister and two others. They sought safety in a closet when the hurricane was at its worst.

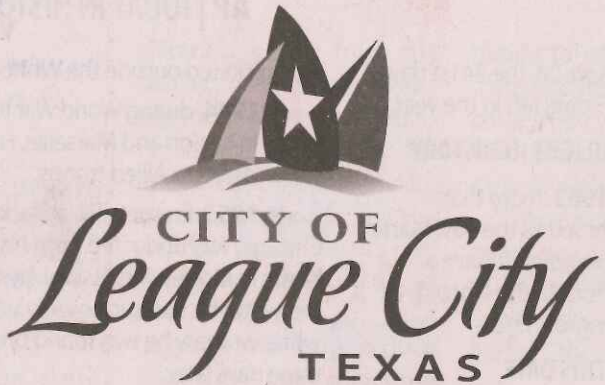
"It was like a jigsaw puzzle in this closet. We were on top of each other, just holding each other and crying," Agosto said.

CITY OF LEAGUE CITY, TEXAS NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of League City will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at 6:00 PM at the Council Chambers located at 200 W. Walker Street, League City, Texas for the purpose of a public hearing for the Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Budget. Copies of the Fiscal Year 2021 Proposed Budget can be found at the office of the City Secretary at 300 W. Walker or the Helen Hall Library located at 100 W. Walker, League City, Texas or online at www.leaguecitytx.gov.

The following language is required by the State of Texas Budget Law, Section 102.005 of the Local Government Code.

This budget will raise more total property taxes than last year's budget by \$1,357,000 or 2.8%, and of that amount \$1,086,000 is tax revenue to be raised from new property added to the tax roll this year.



**DICKINSON
VFW 6378**

**CANTEEN IS CLOSED BUT WE ARE
OPEN FOR MONDAY AND
THURSDAY DINNERS
SEPTEMBER MENU**

**Sept. 3 - Steak Night
THAT THE STORM CANCELED**

Sept. 10 - Chicken Fried Steak

Sept. 17 Fish Fry

Sept. 24 Steak Night

We are only open to take orders
Monday and Thursday After 3pm

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