



THE LOOKOUT



Fall 2017

www.museumofthegulfcoast.org

From the Director

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Summer and Fall were active this year with the *Betting, Booze and Brothels*, which closed mid-September. The Museum fortunately suffered very little damage during Hurricane Harvey, which enabled us to reach out and help our community recover, both physically and mentally.

On exhibition from now until the beginning of January is *No Man's Land—East Texas African Americans in World War I*. We featured a Veterans Day recognition event, with the induction of the Perricone Quads from Beaumont, into the Notable People Exhibit. The quad brothers served together in the same Tank Unit during the Korean War. In November we also inducted "Fiddler" David Varnado into the Music Exhibit. David has received more than seven local, state, national awards in the past year including the Johnny Gimble Fiddler of the Year from the Country Music Awards and the Legends Award presented in Nashville by Vince Gill.

December will be a busy too. The opening of the Andy and Joyce Green Texas Navy – Maritime Exhibit will be December 15, 6-8pm. We'll close out the year with our annual "Jingle All the Way" Family Fun Day complete with Santa and a magician, December 16, 2017, 10am-2 pm. We hope to see you soon! Best Wishes from all of us to you and yours!



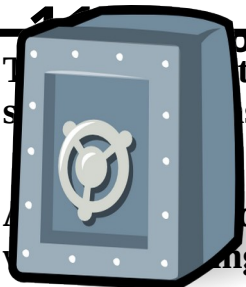
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11. Editorials and Membership

The museum stores its collections inside of two bank vaults. A review of the Vault" is not usually on display.

INSIDE

THE

VAULT

and shows off what must have been quite the attraction for young oilfield workers coming to Port Arthur in the 1920s.

Do you know anything about



Saving the Things that Matter — A Harvey Retrospective



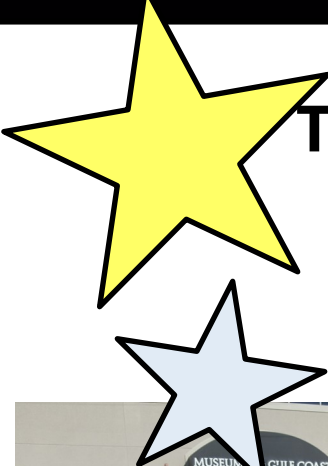
Harvey hit. In fact, the I am thankful that I d board members were

expected that judging from s soon as flood waters iving a barrage of texts, calls, ve photographs, books, s, paintings, furniture (you

The tough but true answer is — sometimes we just can't. Either an item suffered too much damage, or we got to it too late. Still, being high and dry did enable me to volunteer on behalf of the Museum to help people recover personal possessions. I think I was personally able to save about 4,000 photos, 150 other items, and 15 books (giving directions via telephone to some as far away as Houston). I hope that many other people saw the news and were able to use the tips I suggested to recover the items I couldn't get to.

If you were fortunate enough not to lose treasured possessions during Harvey, here is what you should do in preparation of a future storm:

1. **Take things with you if you can.** Otherwise, store photos, documents and other important items in the top of your closets —not in a garage, shed, attic, or storage unit. This is better for them also to be kept in climate control and will prevent damage from excessive humidity (one of the things which causes photos to stick together). If your photos do get stuck together, you can try to separate them by placing them in distilled water and free & clear (no color or scent) dish soap. Separate carefully (you can use dental floss or an embroidery needle) and let dry somewhere with good air circulation. **Continued on Page 8**



THANK YOU AMY MADDUX AND CORTINA PRODUCTIONS!

On Saturday, September 9, over 650 people were able to pick up tools and construction supplies graciously donated by former Port Arthur resident Amy Maddox and her company, Cortina Productions.



The Museum would also like to thank Genie West and her volunteers, the Port Arthur Police Department and the 128th Mobile Public Affairs

Detachment (based out of Oklahoma) of the Army National Guard for ensuring that things went smoothly.

There is still so much work to be done in rebuilding our city and we are thankful for all the help we've received!



KID'S CORNER

GULF COAST

Our popular Children's Art Competition is open this year to artists of all ages! Artists may enter up to two (2) pieces in any medium. Pieces must be ready to hang.

The theme of the competition is
"TEXAS STRONG"



Hurricane Harvey dealt many of us a serious blow, and we'd like to challenge our community to produce an uplifting show that will put a smile on everyone's faces. Entry forms can be downloaded on our website or picked up at the Museum. Children's entries (0—18) are FREE. \$10 per adult entry (18+) will go towards a CASH PRIZE for "Best in Show".

**DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS:
FEBRUARY 3, 2018.**

DID YOU KNOW?

Port Arthur native and internationally Recognized artist Robert Rauschenberg created his famous collage "Signs" to commemorate the decade of the 1960s. How will we one day tell the story of 2017?



From Facebook:

Visitor Comments

different staff—what a great group of people. The whole museum is a wealth of information. The cost is minimal compared to the good time (we) had. Thank you for a great time. Laura & Al.”

5 star review from Kimmie Borel Pollock (Southeast Texas) on August 3

“I have lived in this area all of my life and this was my first visit. I learned things about my home town that I never knew. The people here were so incredibly nice! It was so interesting. I highly recommend taking time to go and visit.”

5 star review from Leanne Oliver (Moss Bluff, Louisiana) on June 17

“I am late to post but April last year I lost my mother and we always wanted to go visit the “Janis Joplin Museum” as she would say... so last September on her birthday my husband and I visited it and it was spiritually everything to me to still take joy in the things we would’ve done. She was my everything and the Museum itself was a very friendly place, close to Janis’ old childhood home. My mother would have loved it. We plan on visiting again—I want to buy a brick from Janis’ home which was torn down so we can lay it next to my mom’s memorial in Ferriday, LA. God bless!”

5 star review from Tina Wages Gentry (Avery, Texas) on May 18

“It totally blew me away. I did not have time to see everything. So much information. I loved it, wish to visit again.”

From Trip Advisor:**4 star review from A1place (Melbourne, Australia) on August 9**

“I had gone to Port Arthur to visit what I thought was a whole museum of Janis Joplin memorabilia I was very disappointed when I found that only one small section is dedicated to her. None the less I thought the exhibits that they had throughout the museum were a credit to the director Tom Neal and staff. The music section had a juke box you could play songs on while you looked around. I found out a lot of other famous people that were also from Port Arthur. The staff were very friendly overall a good experience.”

4 star review from RacSar (Ethel, Louisiana) on July 29

“*It was all good*—I have seen their billboard on I10 several years. Well worth the trip into Port Arthur. I went for Janis Joplin exhibit. Thoroughly enjoyed the entire museum, from the beautiful hand painted mural to the glass, ivory, art and famous/infamous Texans’ exhibits. The Director Mr. Neal along with the staff was friendly and helpful. There was something for most everyone to enjoy.”

5 star review from blakenbrandyc (Louisiana) on July 16

“Awesome Museum—Very big much to see here. Some oilfield education and of course the man of our house works in the oil field they many other really cool things downstairs. Upstairs is where all the fun happens!! They have the largest sports them history displayed up their. And for the best part... the music We are all huge music fans in my family. We love all music too! The Janis Joplin car was pretty awesome but watching my kids be able to really play a jukebox was my favorite part!! And play some good rocking-roll on these things. I would say it's a must see it has something for everyone here!”



For more information, call
409-982-7000 or email
mogc.educator@gmail.com



No Man's Land: East Texas African Americans in World War I draws attention to the experiences of East Texas African Americans in the First World War. Over 11,000 black Texans served in virtually every capacity. As the U.S. commemorates the 100th Anniversary of its involvement in WWI, the Museum will be showcasing a variety of items from local collectors including uniforms, rare medals, and firearms. Children will have the opportunity to learn what life was like 100 years ago, and gain a better understanding of why we say "Thank you" to our veterans.



The well-known quadruplets from Beaumont were media darlings from the time of their birth—as the first surviving set. They chose to serve together during the Korean War, drawing the attention of *Life* magazine. Of the four brothers: Anthony, Bernard, Carl, and Donald—only Carl still lives on "Quad Lane". The others have since passed, but were recognized by the government of South Korea for their unique contribution to the war effort. Descendants of the other quads were present on Nov. 10, 2017 to accept the honor of being inducted into the Museum's Hall of Fame.

The Perricone Quads

Harvey Retrospective, continued from Page 3

2. Have your framed art work and photos matted. You don't have to pay for professional framing—in fact, you can order pre-cut mats on Amazon or buy them at many craft stores. A mat doesn't just make a photo or piece of art look nice. It helps to prevent it from sticking to the glass. If items get wet, remove them from the frames to dry. Don't try to pull them off the glass if they are stuck—you could lose the whole image! However, you must remove the backing or the frame will mold on the inside.

3. Build a “disaster kit”. You probably won't be able to find the supplies you need when everyone is rushing to the stores after the storm, so pick things up and pack them in a safe place before you leave.

Here's a sample of what my disaster kit contains. It is packed in a large plastic bin:

Clear Dish Soap (for almost everything)_

Bleach (for everything else)_

Paper Towels, rags_

Fluorescent light fixture “egg crate”

(sheet plastic with holes). Great for drying things

out while leaving them nothing they can stick to.

You can buy this at home improvement stores._

Iron (takes wrinkles out of documents)_

Electric fan, flashlight, extension cord_

Clothesline/pins



Who has graciously donated some items for exhibition.

Above: Jim King interviews Jo-El Sonnier

can order online)_

ordinary dust mask will not protect your lungs. You need a mask
inducted into our Music Hall of Fame. At
better idea if you know you will be in a place with severe mold._
stage by inductees Jo-El Sonnier and Don



Bobby Leopold

By Andy McCall

We always love to hear about our Hall of Famers giving back to the community. That's certainly the case with Bobby Leopold. The linebacker graduated from Lincoln High School in 1976 and from Notre

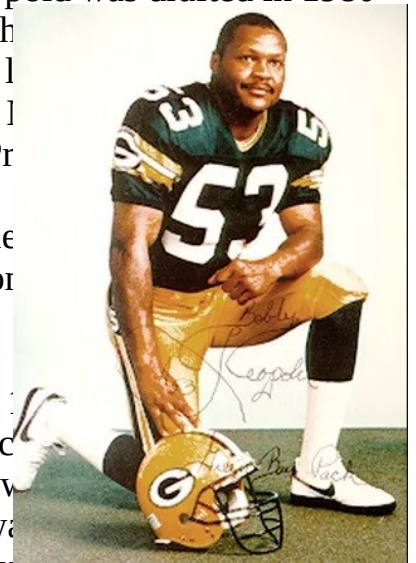
Dame in 1980. At Lincoln, Leopold lettered in both track and football, earning All-District honors in the Super 20 and the Shot Put.

While at Notre Dame, he set a school record for interceptions returned for touchdowns. Off the field, he earned a degree in economics. Leopold was drafted in 1980 by the San Diego Chargers of the NFL. That same year, he was chosen to the NFL All-Rookie team. His football career included stints with the Chargers, San Francisco 49ers, Green Bay Packers and the USFL. He played in the Super Bowl in 1981 and 1982 and was chosen All-Pro in 1981. Bobby Leopold retired from football in 1988.

He recently retired from working for a manufacturer of electronic fiber optics. Nowadays, you'll find him teaching Economics at Port Arthur Memorial High School in Port Arthur.

When we initially held the grand opening for our Hall of Fame in 2017, Bobby Leopold was not available for the ceremony. In October, Port Arthur Historical Society President Tom Monroe and Museum Director Tom Neal formally presented him with his plaque.

Leopold, his sister, and his wife were in attendance. The ceremony was held at the Port Arthur Memorial High School in Port Arthur.

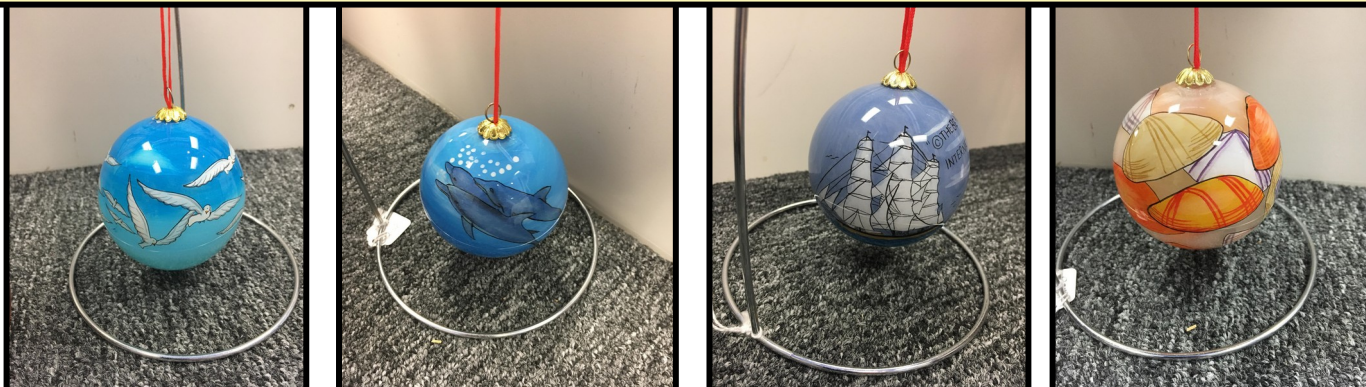


Bobby Leopold, and his sister



GIFT SHOP SCOOP

By Becky Guidry,
Administrative Assistant



Christmas is right around the corner, and as usual, there are all kinds of new items at our Gift Shop. In celebration of our renovated Maritime Gallery officially opening December 6, we'd like to show off these colorful ornaments which will add a little nautical flair to your holiday season. Family and friends who may have moved away but still love Port Arthur will love our alumni ornaments featuring the logos of Lincoln, Stephen F. Austin, and Memorial High School. Sorry — no Thomas Jefferson yet, but we'll see what we can do.

For kids, grandkids, and the young at heart, we have updated our stock of plush Texas animals. Who wants a boring teddy bear when you could have an alligator, hawk, or adorable sea turtle? Throw in a few of our spectacular snakes and you've got a zoo on your hands!

We certainly can't leave out everything Janis Joplin. We always try to have the latest books, CDs, shirts, and other items, such as magnets and tote bags. And of course, no true fan's collection is truly complete without an authentic brick from Janis Joplin's house.



My name is Becky Guidry and I am the new Administrative Assistant here at the Museum. One of my favorite jobs is the Gift Shop. It's always fun when a new shipment of goodies arrives!

Society Donations and Memorials

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Spark your curiosity of the wonders of electricity in this interactive exhibit. When you're engaged in hands-on experimentation with electricity, you will too! Use your knowledge of circuits regulate the flow of electrons along a conductor or "feel" the electricity from the hair-raising effects of the Van de Graaff generator which demonstrates

Learn how electricity is created and explore the fuel sources needed to generate power from an outlet back to the power plant. You'll feel the force of electricity by manipulating static (like Franklin's Lightning Rod), and tackling questions of sustainable energy.