

# PORT LAVACA

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## American hostages in danger

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — An anonymous telephone caller said today the terrorist group Islamic Jihad would kill by firing squad the American hostages it holds in Lebanon because indirect negotiations with the United States had resulted in a deal.

A later anonymous call claimed the Americans had been killed and dumped at a specified location, but police said they found no bodies there.

The Americans are missing in Beirut, Islamic Jihad, believed composed of fundamentalist Shiite Muslim followers of Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, has said it already killed one American and is holding the other five.

There was no way to authenticate either call, made to the office of a Western news agency in Beirut, according to different sources. The news agency made a transcript of the original caller's statement available to The Associated Press.

We have developed the following: the assassination of the American hostages by firing squad, said the first caller, who spoke in Arabic and seemed to represent Islamic Jihad, or Islamic Holy War.

Wait for another call from us at 1 p.m. (U.S. EST) in connection with the status of the corpses of the American hostages," the caller said.

At 1 p.m. (U.S. EST) the agency said the man had not called back, but an official of the agency, which asked not to be identified, disclosed that there had been another call at 1:10 p.m. (U.S. EST).

A man speaking in Arabic said bodies had been dumped in a basement factory in the Kola district of West Beirut. He hung up after a few seconds.

But it was not apparently the same man who delivered the death threat earlier today at 9 p.m. They had searched the area thoroughly but found no bodies.

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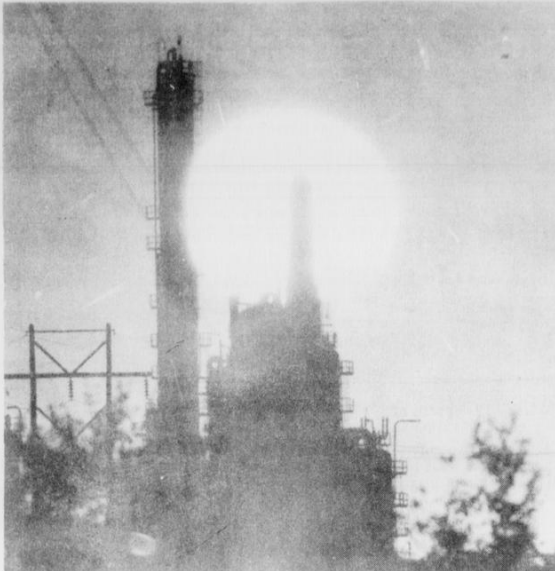
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THE SETTING SUN reddens the sky and illuminates the stripping column and the overhead condenser at Formosa Plastics in Point Comfort. According to the Texas Air Control Board, 41 air pollution violations have been reported since the Calhoun County plant's opening in late 1982. To avoid legal action by the Texas Attorney General's office, the company has agreed to make changes to reduce the amount of pollution. (Staff photo by Marty Peterchak)

## Formosa cited on 65 violations

By BRENDA J. BREAUX  
Wave Staff Writer

POINT COMFORT — Formosa Plastics Corporation's recent \$60,000 out-of-court settlement with the state was based on an accumulation of 65 air pollution violations since the company opened in 1982.

Jim Braddock, staff attorney for the Texas Air Control Board (TACB), said the TACB turned the case over to the state attorney general after the numerous violations.

"We requested the attorney general's office to file a lawsuit against Formosa on April 22, for violations of TACB rules relating to emissions of vinyl chloride," Braddock said.

"The number of violations and the fact the violations were still occurring, more than two years after the case opened caused us to believe enforcement action was warranted," he said.

Some of the rules involved in emission regulations allow no more than 10 parts vinyl chloride per million particles of air. Formosa had violations as high as 450 parts per million, Braddock said.

Some violations, such as relief valve releases, are not allowed under Texas air pollution regulations, Braddock said. However, Formosa recorded emissions from relief valves, he said.

The violations were found among emissions reported by Formosa, as required by state air pollution regulations.

The TACB, when looking for violations, uses testing methods which last for one- or two-hour periods.

Formosa's four highest violations were in 1983. Three one-hour tests showed vinyl chloride levels per million particles of air at 453, 442 and 356 parts.

A two-hour test showed a violation of 438 parts.

Vinyl chloride exposure in heavy doses can lead to angiosarcoma, a liver cancer, according to Joann Wiersma, a TACB scientist.

"It takes repeated exposure to heavy doses to cause damage," she said. "It is not acutely toxic and was once used as an anesthetic."

Braddock was unable to give the number of violations occurring per year, but since January, the company has had 10 violations, he said.

A violation occurring in February was found because of a dust complaint by a Point Comfort resident. When the TACB investigated, Formosa was charged with a violation of polyvinyl chloride (PVC) dust emission.

Wiersma said high doses of dust can be irritating to the eyes, nose and mouth.

"We investigated (the dust complaint) and issued a notice of violation," Braddock said. "The company corrected the problem."

The case against the Formosa plant was never taken to court because company officials agreed to make changes, he said.

"When we notified Formosa officials of the pending suit, they (Please see Formosa, Page 2)

## Educators agree control best kept local

By LOUISE POPPLEWELL  
Wave Staff Writer

Local educators agree with the National Association of School Boards (NASB) that control of public schools should remain in local hands.

A coalition of 200 business executives and educators has recommended control of school systems remain in the community and not be delegated to "the domain of state boards of education."

"Even the president of the Texas state board agrees as much control as possible should be left to local boards," said Pete Hall, Calhoun County Independent School District Board of Trustees president. "I think we all believe in more local control, but we certainly have our hands tied with control by the

state as far as money and our curriculum are concerned."

Although states have been forced to assume higher rates in funding education, states should resist the temptation to take complete control of local school districts, according to the Committee for Economic Development (CED).

This was one of several recommendations made by CED's Research and Policy Committee in a 107-page report, "Investing in Our Children."

The purpose of the report is to offer suggestions on how American public education can be improved so that all children will have "the opportunity to learn, to grow and become informed and productive adults," according to the CED report.

The report was prepared by CED

staff members after a report issued three years ago convinced them the United States' growing inability to compete economically overseas had, as one of its causes, the nation's inadequate educational system.

"An initial survey of our trustees revealed that many employers believed the schools were graduating too many students who lacked even the basic requirements for success in the workplace," the staff wrote.

The report focused on four key education issues: educational investment, employability, teachers and schools, and business/school collaboration.

The report rejects the idea of a statewide school board. "There is sound evidence that decisions about school organization and management are best made at the local

level," the report stated. "Like effective businesses, effective schools should be able to set targets, have self-defined goals and objectives, and measure their accomplishments without higher levels of management dictating how those objectives should be met."

But the report acknowledges the state must set standards as an accompaniment to its financial control.

The report states many reforms will require increased funding and urges business leaders to use their influence in support of larger school budgets.

Money should be first applied at the elementary level, then to middle schools, rather than to high schools, "where much recent effort has been directed."

The report included the following

recommendations for teachers and schools:

"Salaries for entry level and career-level teachers should be increased so school systems can attract high quality personnel, and teachers should be rewarded for outstanding performance."

"Career ladders can be used to help attract and retain high-quality teachers. Career salary structures should reflect the role of the teacher as a professional educator. They should not be based on increasing levels of administrative responsibility."

"Non-professional tasks teachers are saddled with — such as housekeeping and clerical chores — should be sharply reduced; and principals, whose management abilities directly affect the quality of (Please see School, Page 2)



## City pitches in on Main Street

THE RENOVATION OF Main Street is a big topic these days. The City Council recently passed a resolution self-initiating the city in a Main Street renovation program. City crews are filling in slack times by trimming right of ways and replacing broken sidewalks. One such crew

## Chamber proposes tourism brochure

The Chamber of Commerce Tourism Committee has announced plans to produce a Calhoun County tourism brochure.

About 20,000 copies will be made of the proposed 16-page color brochure, which will cover all of Calhoun County, according to Larry Yarbrough, committee chairman.

The brochure, to be developed and produced by Key Design, will be completed and ready by the first of the year in time for the Jan. 4 Houston Boat Show, he said.

The publication will feature different parts of the county, including recreation, points of interest, festivals and happenings, accommodations, dining out, night life and shopping.

The brochure will have a colorful map showing points of interest as the centerfold.

"A publication of this size, quantity and quality does have a large price tag, but the county should receive a good tourism return on the investment," Yarbrough said.

"Because of this cost, the chamber is asking for help from the county businesses and residents in

the way of contributions.

"If a business benefits from tourism or it would like to be a part of the growth of tourism in this area, they should consider doing their part."

Businesses which do contribute will be listed by category as a service guide for tourists.

"This brochure will sell Calhoun County and relay to others what we have to offer from an upbeat and positive standpoint," Yarbrough said.

"According to Shirley Evans, acting chamber director, the group does distribute about 20,000 Calhoun County brochures a year."

Anyone with information or ideas of items which could be included in the brochure are asked to contact the chamber office at 352-2959.

The committee is soliciting color photographs of area events. If the photograph is used, credit will be given in the form of a nameplate by the picture. The pictures will be returned to the owners after they are used.

"Color photos are needed of (Please see Tourism, Page 2)

## 3 arrested in theft

Three men suspected of taking an undisclosed amount of clothing from Bealls Department Store Wednesday afternoon, were arrested on charges of theft Wednesday evening.

Police Lt. Ronald Nowotny said the three suspects were initially stopped on a traffic violation when officers noticed the clothes in the vehicle.

"Because of the report, the officers took the suspects to Bealls to get a list of items the men bought

while shopping at the store. When officers asked the store manager for the list, the manager said he had seen the men come into the store and look around, but said they had left without making a purchase. Nowotny said.

The three alleged suspects in the case are Ricardo Velasquez, 33; Andreas Ortiz, 33; and Mario Madrigal, 33. All of the suspects are from the Corpus Christi area.

Police said one of the suspects arrested was confined to a wheelchair.

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## Tides

Thursday, a low of 0.4 ft. at 5:06 p.m. in Indianola, 5:38 p.m. in Port O'Connor and 5:26 p.m. in Port Lavaca.

Friday, a high of 1.6 ft. 1:50 a.m., 1:40, 1:55; a low of 0.9 ft., 6:39 a.m., 7:03, 6:53; and a high of 1.3 ft., 1:03 p.m., 12:53, 1:08.

## Weather

Calhoun County  
The high Wednesday was 80 with an overnight low of 58. Temperature at 9 a.m. today was 61. No rainfall has been recorded at The Wave in the last 24 hours.

Sunset at 5:39 p.m. today.  
Sunrise at 6:46 a.m. Friday.

## Area Forecasts

Tonight, clear and cool. Lows in the low 50s. Light wind. Friday, sunny and warm. Highs near 80. South wind 10 to 14 mph in the afternoon.

Variable winds near 10 knots shifting to the northwest 10 to 15 knots tonight. Winds becoming southerly 10 to 15 knots Friday afternoon. Seas building to 4 to 6 feet tonight.

Thought for today: "I don't want any yes-men around me. I want everybody to tell me the truth even if it costs them their jobs." —Samuel Goldwyn