

## TSUs Hurricane Relief Effort

By Eva Pickens

Texas Southern University has reason to be proud. Even though the University was in the midst of its own major cleanup from the devastation of Hurricane Ike, when asked, it readily accepted the task of becoming a POD (Point of Distribution) for FEMA. Six trailers, filled with water, ice and MRE's rolled onto the campus on Monday – within hours, thousands of individuals and families lined the streets surrounding TSU seeking relief; water, ice, food, and resources of every kind.

On the first day, TSU provided service to more than 1,000 individuals an hour for six hours; Day two numbers and time of operation were almost identical. Visitors from every political and community entity, from near and far, came to the campus to observe the operation, to volunteer, or just out of curiosity. TSU campus organizations, other universities, community organizations, church groups and grass roots organizations helped in the relief effort. But TSU's heroes of the effort were the members of the Men's Basketball team, who sprung into action, before help arrived on that first day, and for three days, unloaded boxes and distributed needed supplies to the throngs of residents that anxiously began lining up three hours before the POD opened.

James Rodriguez, City Council member, commented that, "TSU has been tremendous in this endeavor, and I've been bragging everyday about it." He said TSU is in his district and that he's never been more proud.

When asked to extend the operation a second day, Dr. Rudley, with no hesitation, answered, "Yes." So the trucks, volunteers and the community went into motion early.

Another volunteer, Tomaro Bell, chairman of Super Neighborhood #83, stated – "...and they said there's little or no hope for the youth of tomorrow. – I'm thrilled and encouraged about what I've seen. TSU's Basketball Team members were humbled, took ownership and were helpful."

I certainly cannot think of another opportunity that would allow us to show our passion for the community. I saw people come together; helping the elderly, children, and the overall community."

"It is unusual to see this," said TSU President Dr. John Rudley, who has been on the scene since day one. "People are usually impatient during trying times like this. What I've seen is, "a need to help others" come out.

Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee was one of the first to arrive on the scene – talking with TSU students whose dormitories did not have power on Monday and who were moved into one of the University's administrative buildings for a short time. Visits from many other community leaders as Congressman Al Green, Senator Rodney Ellis, Pastors Joel and Victoria Olsteen, Algenita Scott Davis, City Council Member Peter Brown, Chris Bell, FEMA representatives, were witnessed throughout the week.

Terrence Fontaine, with the City of Houston's mayor's office, is to be commended for offering Texas Southern University "the opportunity to serve the community."

I think that what we're seeing is a NEW NORMAL, where people are helping people because it's the right thing to do. An employee who worked the POD for a full day, at the end of that day, reflected saying, "Wow that was so gratifying."

The POD rolls out on Wednesday evening and TSU's faculty and staff will turn their attention to the work at hand - continuing to help assess damages and working around the clock to restore the campus to a sense of normalcy. TSU employees returned to work on Wednesday – students will not return until Monday, September 22.

Eva Pickens is the Director of Communications at Texas Southern University.



Sun Photo/Lonal X. Robinson

Texas Southern University Science and Technology Building is an example of the damage Hurricane Ike's destruction on campus, causing a week delay in reopening the university since the storm.

## Important Phone Numbers during Hurricane Ike recovery

City of Houston: 3-1-1 - Report your down trees and other issues that you would normally report to the City of Houston

CenterPoint: 713.207.2222 - Down power lines or power poles ONLY. CenterPoint knows if you are without power, you need not report it.

FEMA - 1.800.621.3362 - Recovery assistance.  
Attorney General- xxx Report price gauging and fraud.

## CenterPoint power restoration schedule

The following zip codes are estimated to have substantial power restoration by the end of day on Friday, September 19:

77065, 77094, 77095, 77354, 77355, 77356, 77362, 77375, 77377, 77382, 77384, 77418, 77420, 77423, 77429, 77430, 77433, 77434, 77435, 77441, 77444, 77445, 77449, 77450, 77461, 77468, 77469, 77471, 77474, 77479, 77482, 77484, 77486, 77488, 77493, 77494

The following zip codes are estimated to have substantial power restoration by the end of day on Monday, September 22:

77024, 77031, 77032, 77039, 77040, 77041, 77042, 77050, 77055, 77072, 77077, 77079, 77080, 77082, 77083,

77084, 77092, 77099, 77336, 77338, 77339, 77346, 77357, 77365, 77373, 77386, 77396, 77459, 77477, 77478, 77479, 77511, 77515, 77534, 77577, 77583

The following zip codes have sustained extensive damage, and will therefore have a restoration timeline that extends beyond Monday, September 22:

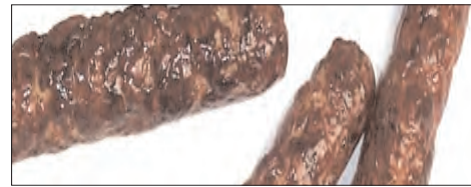
77002, 77003, 77004, 77005, 77006, 77007, 77008, 77009, 77010, 77011, 77012, 77013, 77014, 77015, 77016, 77017, 77018, 77019, 77020, 77021, 77022, 77023, 77025, 77026, 77027, 77028, 77029, 77030, 77033, 77034, 77035, 77036, 77037, 77038, 77040, 77044, 77045, 77046, 77047, 77048, 77051, 77053, 77054, 77056, 77057, 77058, 77059, 77060, 77061, 77062,

77063, 77064, 77066, 77067, 77068, 77069, 77070, 77071, 77073, 77074, 77075, 77076, 77078, 77081, 77085, 77086, 77087, 77088, 77089, 77090, 77091, 77093, 77096, 77098, 77379, 77380, 77386, 77388, 77389, 77401, 77422, 77459, 77489, 77502, 77503, 77504, 77505, 77506, 77507, 77510, 77515, 77517, 77518, 77520, 77521, 77530, 77531, 77532, 77534, 77535, 77536, 77539, 77541, 77545, 77546, 77547, 77550, 77551, 77554, 77563, 77565, 77566, 77568, 77571, 77573, 77578, 77581, 77583, 77584, 77586, 77587, 77590, 77591, 77598

CenterPoint said that once the above is completed, 80 percent of the power will be restored to the region.



Bar-b-Que Ribs



Bar-b-Que Links



Bar-b-Que Chicken



Bar-b-Que Chopped Beef



Bar-b-Que Beef

### Dine In for Lunch and Dinner

- BBQ Ribs
- BBQ Beef
- Brisket
- BBQ Beef Links
- BBQ Chicken
- Baked Beans
- Potato Salad
- Harlon's Sauce
- Sliced Bread
- Relish Tray
- Iced Tea
- Soft Drinks
- Beer & Wine

"Eat where the ribs are smoked and the sides are homecooked fresh daily just for you"

"Let us cater your next event; from family reunions to your special days."

Family Dining and Children's Special

## Family Owned Franchise George and Pandra Zigler

5404 Almeda, H.T 77004 @ Prospect Formerly Green's  
M-Th 11AM-8PM  
Fri-Sat 11AM-9PM  
713-533-1230

**832 Coffee House**  
**White Night**  
Sunday, September 20, 2008  
6 pm – 8 pm  
Featuring  
The Artist of the month  
Live music, homemade desserts, fresh brewed coffee, poetry, relaxing atmosphere and so much more  
Pilgrim Congregational United Church of Christ  
Pilgrim Community Center  
3118 Blodgett  
Houston, TX 77004  
832-689-9973  
Wear YOUR WHITE!  
John 8:32  
FREE FREE FREE

Because you have the power to choose  
**Lone Star Select**  
When you choose Ambit Energy's Lone Star Select safe plan today, you choose big savings, an exciting travel rewards card and an unparalleled service guarantee.  
**Select for the savings.**  
The new Lone Star Select plan is now 14¢/kWh. Choose the plan that works best for you.  
Lone Star Select plan 12.9¢  
Reference Residential Choice Plan 15.0¢  
Your Savings 14.0¢  
**Select for the travel rewards.**  
Choose the plan that works best for you. The new Lone Star Select plan is now 14¢/kWh. Choose the plan that works best for you. The new Lone Star Select plan is now 14¢/kWh. Choose the plan that works best for you.  
**Select for the service guarantee.**  
The guarantee is the best in the industry. Choose the plan that works best for you. The new Lone Star Select plan is now 14¢/kWh. Choose the plan that works best for you.  
Contact us: 800-444-4444  
Voice: 713-293-4474  
Email: lone.star.select@ambitenergy.com  
Online: www.ambitenergy.com

Place your advertisement in The Houston Sun. Salespersons needed NOW! Advertising@houston.com 713-524-0786

**KIJANA WISEMAN, M.Ed.**  
The Digital Diva:  
Oldies, Showtunes, Classics,  
Griot Lectures & Workshops  
713-521-0900  
www.kijana.com  
kijana@moshows.com  
Online Songlist & Videos!

Register to Vote so that you can participate in the America's Historic Election. You must be registered by October 4th to be able to vote in the election. Do it today! Make it a family affair.

Let the Houston Sun design your marketing materials. Letter Head Stationary Envelopes Business Cards and More  
713-524-0786  
info@houston.com