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Justin Eaglin, 18, works on the set for a show rehearsal. When Eaglin was a freshman, he says, he was shy and quiet, but choir director Renee Kloes changed that for him. He plans to attend Lamar University to study electrical engineering, but hopes he will make music performance in the future — because that's what he really wants to do.

## Breaking out of shells, onto stage

Recent graduate hopes to one day perform professionally

**BY JOE D. ENRIQUEZ III**  
A recent high school graduate, Justin Eaglin, 18, is breaking out of his shell and onto the stage. He would have been a shy and quiet freshman when he first started at school. But choir director Renee Kloes changed that for him.

## Heavy duty buoys ready for the sea

Facility is working on a large production of three massive pieces.

**BY JANE MOORE**  
The process of building a large production of three massive pieces is well underway at the facility. The pieces are being built for a large production of three massive pieces. The pieces are being built for a large production of three massive pieces.

## Chiefs' Charles back in charge

The football player is glad to have been able to play again.



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Justin Eaglin, 18, helps tie up the scrim before a June rehearsal begins. When Eaglin was a freshman, he says, he was shy and quiet, but choir director Renee Kloes changed that for him. He plans to attend Lamar University to study electrical engineering, but hopes he will make music performance in the future — because that's what he really wants to do.

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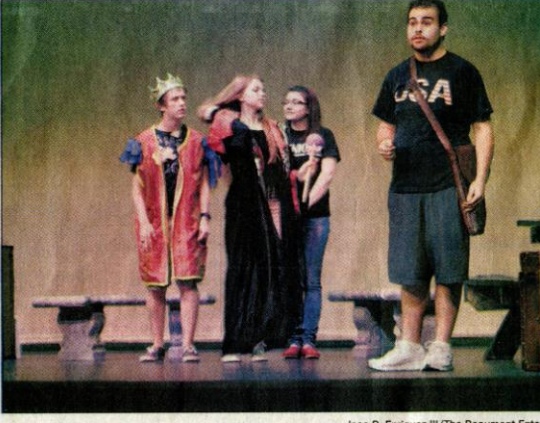
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## SHELL: Justin Eaglin says professional experience helps improve performance

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any hints of a once bashful teen.  
Eaglin, 18, will be playing King Sextimus — a character he describes as a womanizer — in an upcoming performance of "Once Upon A Mattress."  
The show is in conjunction with the Steve Barton Musical Theater Project.  
The program, which began at Nederland High School four years ago, is a three-week summer musical program for students.  
"They don't have eight to 10 weeks to put on a show," Kloes said. "They have a week or two. It's a tight rehearsal schedule, and it has higher expectations of the students, like they would in the real world."  
While Kloes gets the credit for helping Eaglin find confidence, Nederland alumnus Lance Orta has been helping Eaglin develop his acting

chops.  
Orta, 20, attends Depauw University in Indiana.  
When he's not studying vocal performance, he's singing opera. Orta's most recent performance was in a show titled, "Deflator Mouse."  
Kloes says it's Orta's experiences that are helping her students learn understand the way performing works in the "real world."  
"He's teaching us about rehearsals, and he's had the professional experience," Eaglin said.  
Orta, who will perform in the production as the play's narrator, said it's rewarding to come home and teach local teens his craft.  
He said watching them takes him back to his own high school days.  
Orta said he has enjoyed preparing the students "for roles and understanding how to really get into character."

Kloes said it is important for former students to return to their schools and teach.  
She said this is Orta's third year to return to Nederland.  
"He's brought back a lot of voice ability and professionalism, like showing by example how to show up to rehearsal knowing your lines, having them memorized," she said.  
Eaglin plans to attend Lamar University in the fall and will study electrical engineering.  
This could be his last performance as an actor, but Eaglin said he hopes he'll fall into music one day and perhaps return to Nederland High School to help future students.  
"I really want to do music performance for the rest of my life," he said.



Nederland High School alumnus Lance Orta, 20, narrates the "Once Upon A Mattress" during a rehearsal for the Steve Barton Musical Theater Project summer program this weekend. Choir director Renee Kloes says it's experience from returning alumni that really help the students in terms of growth and what to expect in the "real world."