

# PORT ARTHUR The News

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

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## PORT ARTHUR The News

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES

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WEDNESDAY

### High court limits voting law

It ends need for U.S. OK to change elections in states with history of racial discrimination



**INSIDE**  
Put'n says yes, Snowden is here, no, you can't have him  
Full story, page A7

By Erin Callahan  
The News staff writer

In a 5-4 ruling on Tuesday, the Supreme Court declared Section 4 of the landmark Voting Rights Act — designed to speed minority voters — unconstitutional.

"Our country has changed and while any racial discrimination in voting is too much, Congress must ensure that the legislation it passes to remedy that problem speaks to current conditions," Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the decision. He added that the coverage formula is

Section 4 was based on abominable statistics. Passed in 1965, the Voting Rights Act was a landmark piece of legislation that required states with a history of voter suppression cannot amend their voting laws without presidential approval from the federal government. It is a constitutional requirement that states with a history of voter suppression cannot amend their voting laws without presidential approval from the federal government. It is a constitutional requirement that states with a history of voter suppression cannot amend their voting laws without presidential approval from the federal government.

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**DAILY PRAYER**  
My faith and my heart  
my faith, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.  
—Psalm 73:26

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**STOCKS**  
Market watch  
June 26, 2013

Dow Jones	.....14,800.56
Industrials	.....14,760.31

Market listings, Page B4

**WEATHER**

Today's forecast:  
Mostly sunny with a high of 90 and a low of 75  
Details, Page B4

**COMING UP**

Catch Chester Moore's outdoors page Thursday

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### SINGING THE DOLDRUMS AWAY



Krystopher Williams, center, and Lance Orta rehearse a scene of "Once Upon a Mattress" with other Summer Rec students at the Performing Arts Center at Nederland High School on Wednesday.

### Ned's musical theater project brings summer fun to students

By Erin Callahan  
The News staff writer

Boredom is one of the most common ailments suffered by a high school student out for the summer. "The school has the weight room open for the athletes," said Renee Kloes, who teaches music at Nederland High School. "But we wanted something for the students who are not so athletically inclined."

Four years ago, Kloes found it — the Steve Barton Musical Theatre Project. Named for the late Steve Barton, a Nederland native whose Broadway resume included leading roles in "West Side Story," "Romeo and Juliet" and "Evita," the project gives Nederland High School students an opportunity to prepare and perform a Broadway musical in a three-week span, under the guidance of a Nederland High School alum who has had success in the professional arena.

"This is done so much for me," Orta said. "It was only right to step in."

### LNG project chief points to history

Area has long reaped benefit of energy resource

By Sherry Rasmussen  
The News staff writer

While a packed crowd lined Tuesday at the quarterly Port Arthur Chamber of Commerce luncheon, guest speaker Bill Davis spoke about the past, present and future of energy — particularly the role natural gas will play in coming years.

Davis, project executive for the \$10 billion expansion of the Golden Pass LNG facility in Sabine Pass, said the venture will take the area's abundance of the natural resource and make it available to manufacturers all over the world. The project is now in the federal permitting stages, and

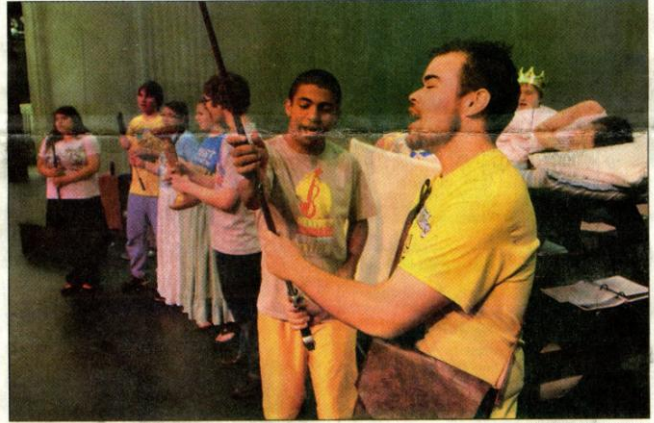
Orta said he is excited to share his talents with his fellow cast members. "I found myself bringing in things I know," he said. "Seeing all the younger students getting to show off their talents is really rewarding."

Lane Orta, a 2010 NHS graduate studying vocal performance at DePaul University in Chicago, is the play's protagonist, Prince Dauntless, and this year's production is very different from the past. "It's nothing like we've ever done before," said Sherer, a 17-year-old senior at Nederland High School. "Normally we have a much larger set. This year we're doing this in the best of our ability to maintain a low-budget production, yet make it fun for everybody involved."

The cast has achieved that, Sherer said. "It's very family friendly," he said. "There's no references to anything bad. It's just all-around fun."

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Lane Orta, a 2010 NHS graduate studying vocal performance at DePaul University in Chicago

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## Celebrate Fourth of July southeast Texas style

Looking for a place to hear some patriotic music, catch a fireworks show and celebrate the Fourth of July? Then check out this listing of Independence Day events around the area.

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### Local News

June 26, 2013

## Ned's musical theater project brings summer fun to students

Erinn Callahan  
The Port Arthur News

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This year's production is "Once Upon a Mattress," a fragmented retelling of the classic fairy tale "The Princess and the Pea," which will be presented June 28-29 at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center at Nederland High School, 2101 18th Street. Tickets are available at the door for \$5.

This year's mentor is Lane Orta, a 2010 graduate of Nederland High School who is currently studying vocal performance at DePaul University in Chicago. He returned to his old stomping grounds at the request of Kloes, his high school choir teacher.

"She's done so much for me," Orta said. "It was only right to step in."

Orta said he is excited to share his talents with his fellow cast members.

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Khrystopher Williams, center, and Lance Orta rehearse a scene of Once Upon A Mattress with other Summer Rec students at the Performing Arts Center at Nederland High School on Tuesday. Morgan Jones/The News

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