



The Times

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LOCAL FATAL ACCIDENT:
Woman dies in five-vehicle wreck Friday on I-20 /3A

LIFE HEALTH:
More tips from YMCA's Trim Kids program /1L



SPORTS HOCKEY:
Mudbugs win against Allen Americans, 6-4 /1S

YOUR FORECAST

Partly sunny; high 86, low 65
TOMORROW: Partly cloudy; high 83, low 67
Weather details, forecast /2A



Nation/World: Inquiry sought into D.C. test scores, 7A

State: Flooding of Morganza Spillway certain

By Mike Hasten
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BATON ROUGE — Land and structures in the Morganza Spillway will flood, even if the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers does not open the gates, Commissioner of Agriculture Mike Strain and Gov. Bobby Jindal said Friday.

Inside

“It is inevitable that Morganza will flood and the system will top, regardless of whether they open the system,” Strain said at a press conference at the Governor’s Office of Homeland Security.

Jindal said he has asked the Corps of Engineers to provide maps of areas that are anticipated to flood, with and without opening the gates. He said he wants people who would be affected to be able to prepare before the water starts rising.

“Even without opening the spillway, folks can expect flooding comparable to 1973,” the governor said. “If they decide to open the spillway, it will be more water.”

It is anticipated that the gates on the

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Illegally grown

Marijuana cultivation continues to be foil for law enforcement

By Adam Duvernay
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Marijuana is the most popular illicit recreational drug in the country, authorities say, and getting rid of it means going after the roots with shovels and machetes.

Between 2004 and 2009, more than 38 million marijuana plants were eradicated from indoor and outdoor growing sites in America, according to statistics from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. Though the vast majority of those plants were discovered and removed from outdoor locations, the number of indoor grow sites — as well as outdoor — has more than doubled since 2004.

In 2010, the DEA Domestic Cannabis Eradication and Suppression Program collected 1,394 plants from 48 indoor marijuana growing operations in Louisiana. They destroyed 3,075 plants from 62 outdoor plots that same year.

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Henrietta Wildsmith/The Times



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Left and below: Marijuana plants were found growing at a house on Bruce Street in Shreveport on April 22.

Michel Porro/Getty Images

The penalties

Following are penalties in Louisiana for being found guilty of the sale/cultivation of marijuana:

- ▶ Less than 60 pounds — felony, five to 30 years, \$50,000
- ▶ 60 to 2,000 pounds — felony, five to 30 years, \$50,000 to \$100,000
- ▶ 2,000 to 10,000 pounds, felony, 10 to 40 years, \$100,000 to \$400,000
- ▶ More than 10,000 pounds — felony, 25 to 40 years, \$400,000 to \$1,000,000

Al-Qaida vows to avenge bin Laden’s death

By Maggie Michael
The Associated Press

CAIRO — Al-Qaida confirmed the killing of Osama bin Laden and vowed revenge, saying Friday that Americans’ “happiness will turn to sadness.” The statement was the first by the terror network since its leader was slain in a U.S. commando raid against his Pakistani hideout.

The statement, written in typical al-Qaida style and in the name of the organization’s General Command, seemed mostly intended to reassure followers that the terror group remains vigorous and intact.

The statement was dated Tuesday, the day after bin Laden’s death. Its authenticity could not be independently confirmed, but it was posted on militant websites Friday by the al-Fajr Center, al-Qaida’s online media distribution network.

“The blood of the holy warrior sheik, Osama bin Laden, God bless him, is too precious to us and to all Muslims to go in vain,” the statement said. “We will remain, God willing, a curse chasing the Ameri-

cans and their agents, following them outside and inside their countries. Soon, God willing, their happiness will turn to sadness,” it said, “their blood will be mingled with their tears.”

The confirmation by al-Qaida should remove doubt among all but the most die-hard conspiracy theorists that bin Laden is in fact dead.

Earlier Friday, hundreds of members of radical Islamic parties protested in several Pakistan cities against the U.S. raid. Many chanted “Osama is alive” and blasted the U.S. for violating the country’s sovereignty.

The need to provide proof

was behind arguments that the U.S. should release a photo of the slain terror leader. U.S. President Barack Obama has chosen to withhold the photo.

The statement also opens the way for the group to name a successor to bin Laden. His deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri, is now the most prominent figure in the group and a likely contender to take his place.

“Sheik Osama didn’t build an organization to die when he dies,” the statement read. “The university of faith, Quran and jihad from which bin Laden graduated will not close its doors,” it added.



bin Laden

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