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NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS

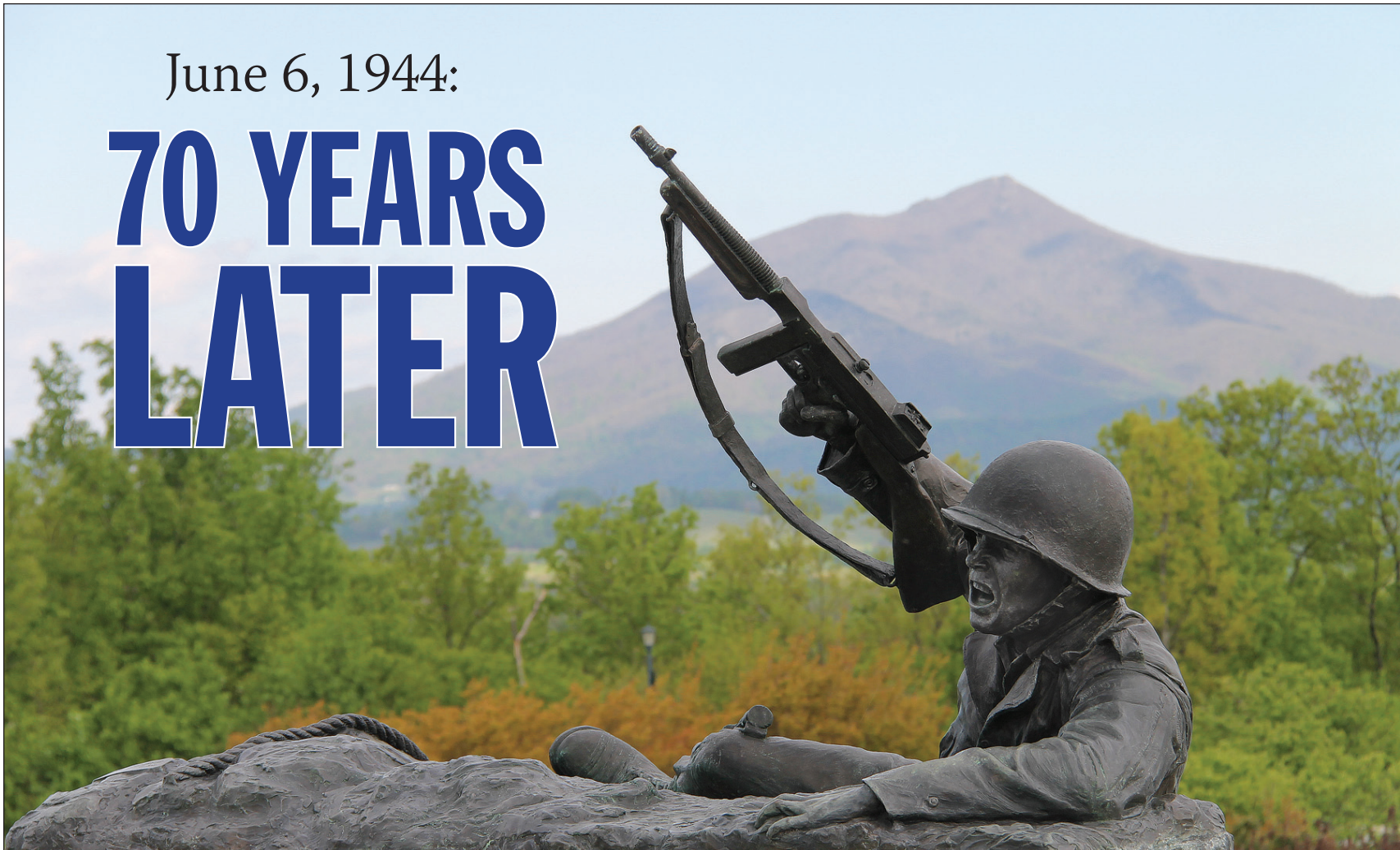
Home of Stephen F. Austin State University

Sports: Douglass defeats Flatonia for state championship » 1B



June 6, 1944:

70 YEARS LATER



Memorial a moving experience

BY TAMRA BOLTON
Contributing Writer

Under an overcast sky, amid stormy seas, the Allied Expeditionary Forces waded ashore along a 50-mile front of coastline. The day was Tuesday, June 6, 1944, undoubtedly the most famous D-Day in history. Under Operation Overlord more than 156,000 men stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, that fateful day ... 9,000 of them would lose their lives.

This year, 2014, marks the 70th anniversary of that legendary invasion.

Even though the attack was costly for the Allied forces, the operation was eventually successful.



Tamra Bolton



Photo by Tamra Bolton

Top: At the D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Va., a soldier is depicted scaling a trench on Omaha Beach against the backdrop of the Blue Ridge Mountains. **Above:** The massive arch proclaiming the name of the greatest amphibious operation ever mounted “Overlord” dominates the D-Day Memorial. In the foreground, statues depicting a soldier trying to save a wounded comrade remind visitors of the high cost of that day.

Historian recalls impact of D-Day on WWII outcome

BY CHRISTINE BROUSSARD
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In one of the largest amphibious military assaults in history, more than 160,000 Allied troops stormed the beaches of Normandy 70 years ago today.

Decades later, historians recall June 6, 1944, known as D-Day, not as the bloodiest battle of the war, but certainly as a distinctive turning point.

“I’m not sure that D-Day does stand out if you simply try to assess it in terms of how ‘terrible’ war can be,” said Dr. Philip Catton, associate professor of history at Stephen F. Austin State University. “Of course, landing in Normandy was a bloody business (like most battles), but there were more American casualties at the Battle of Antietam in 1862 than on June 6, 1944, and there were other battles in World War II that were far more terrible than D-Day, especially on the

Eastern Front and in the Pacific. It is significant for other reasons instead.”

The aquatic assault, code-named Operation Overlord, took the lives of thousands of men and resulted in the Allied liberation of Western Europe from Nazi Germany’s control.

“First, it was the largest amphibious (sea-borne) operation ... certainly in modern history, and amphibious operations are notoriously complicated and dangerous,” Catton said. “The big fear, then, was that the Allied forces would be stopped on the beaches by the Germans and driven into the sea, resulting in very heavy casualties and setting back, perhaps even fatally damaging, the war effort.”

“Second, D-Day marked the beginning of the end for Hitler’s Germany. The success of the Normandy landings opened up Germany

D-Day » 3A

Leading up to D-Day



▲ August 1943: The plan to invade France is endorsed during the Quebec Conference attended by Prime Minister William Lyon Mackenzie King, Winston Churchill and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

May 8, 1944: General Dwight D. Eisenhower settles on June 5, 1944, as the date of the cross-Channel Normandy invasion. It is also decided that in the event of bad weather, the invasion could be mounted on June 6 or 7.

May 26, 1944: Amid tight security and great secrecy, Canadian, British and American forces are concentrated on the south coast of England. The camps are sealed and no one can enter or leave without special authorization.

▲ June 4, 1944: Thousands of military personnel begin to embark on ships, but the weather takes a nasty turn and the invasion is postponed.

June 5, 1944: The massive invasion force begins to cross the English Channel, heading for the Normandy coast.

▲ June 6, 1944: Two years after the disastrous raid at Dieppe and four years after the evacuation at Dunkirk, the Allies are returning to France. In the very early hours, airborne divisions jump or glide down onto the flanks of the invasion areas to seize key bridges and road junctions. More than 7,000 vessels participate in the invasion fleet which is covered by aircraft from some 170 squadrons. The main invasion force lands on five sectors or beaches code-named (from west to east) Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword. It is a five-division front spread over 80 kilometers along the Normandy coast. By day’s end, the Allies land more than 130,000 men and almost 6,000 vehicles by sea. Another 23,400 are landed by air. Total casualties are about half of the 20,000 feared.

CITY

Festival named Big Nac

Name a celebration of city’s ‘uniqueness’

BY PAUL BRYANT
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Big Nac.

That is the name chosen for a four-day music festival scheduled for March 2015 in Nacogdoches.

“We wanted a simple, memorable name (that) incorporated a reference to the host city,” said Texas Music magazine publisher Stewart Ramser. “We could have had ‘music festival’ in the official name, but we prefer to have a broader appeal. ‘Big Nac’ is also a celebration of Nacogdoches and its uniqueness.”

The event is expected to generate more than \$1.3 million in sales-tax and other revenue in Nacogdoches, figures show. Since 2012, Texas Music magazine has hosted Viva Big Bend, a four-day festival that features more than 50 bands in Fort Davis, Marathon, Alpine and Marfa.

According to figures provided

Festival » 3A

EDUCATION

Douglass’ Samford resigns

Superintendent of 3 years leaving

BY KIM FOLI
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Douglass ISD Superintendent, Eric Samford, has resigned and a vacancy for his position has been listed on a website that provides administrative consulting services to school districts.

Samford, who has served as Douglass ISD’s superintendent since February 2011, resigned June 2.

“Our superintendent submitted his resignation effective immediately and the board accepted it on June 2,” said Mike Lowery, board of trustees president. “That’s basically all I know. He just offered his resignation.”

Before becoming superintendent, Samford served as a principal in the district for five years.

DISD » 3A

Coming Saturday

NHS graduation
Seniors walk the stage in their final moments of high school.

