



## Cameron library board answers questions

By Jerry Wise

A number of questions concerning the Cameron Parish Library that were recently raised by a Grand Chenier citizen were answered at the monthly meeting of the Library Board last Thursday.

Teddy Broussard had asked the board for more information about the Library Director's salary, compensatory time for employees and other matters.

Library Board Chairman Cyndi Sellers read a prepared statement from the board in which these issues were addressed:

\*Charlotte Trosclair, parish librarian, does not have a contract, but state law does not require a contract.

\*Federal law requires that library employees be paid time and a half for overtime work, but they also may receive compensatory time off if they desire (which most choose.)

\*Continuing education and the attendant travel by staff members can legally be paid for by the library.

\*The current library director is currently working on a Master's Degree in Library Science, a provision that was required when she was hired. Tuition for the course work was paid to LSU in accordance with an Attorney General's opinion.

\*The Library Director has not received a raise other than the cost of living raises given all library employees.

\*The library's mainte-

nance staff is paid on an "as needed basis." They were paid extra for the use of their tools which the board considered would be a less cost than purchasing tools and equipment.

Broussard told the board that he was concerned that the library was hurting private businesses by providing patrons with video tapes.

He was told that the library primarily stocks video tapes of educational nature that are not handled by video stores.

Broussard also expressed concern about the condition of the old Bonsall store and home that the Library has purchased at Grand Chenier to be remodeled as a library branch.

George LeBoeuf, library maintenance employee, said the buildings actually were in pretty good condition and that he had inspected them.

(It was noted that the Bonsall home was of historical significance, as Franklin Roosevelt had stayed there while on a duck hunt before he became president.)

Chairman Sellers said the parish librarian deserved a lot of credit for all of the work that she has done in the past year or so, including getting the library system computerized and getting three new branch libraries up and running with a fourth due this year.

## Meet set on oyster dredging

A public meeting will be held Wednesday, March 3 at 3:30 p.m. on proposed legislation to allow oyster dredging in Calcasieu Lake.

The meeting will be in the Police Jury Annex in Cameron.

Dredging is allowed for oysters in most areas of the state but only tonging has been permitted in Calcasieu Lake in Cameron Parish.

A proposal has been made to permit dredging in the lake. The meeting will provide an opportunity for local oyster fisherman and others to express their views on this issue.

## Cattlemen invited to meeting

Cattlemen and farmers in Cameron Parish are invited to attend a public meeting on March 10 at 7 p.m. at the Cameron Parish Police Jury office to familiarize those interested in participating in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program commonly known as EQIP.

The EQIP program is designed to address landowner resource concerns on private property and provide financial incentives and technical help to eligible producers to install conservation practices. The meeting will discuss the policies, guidelines and review the conservation practices that can be cost-shared and at what rates.

This year, rebuilding cattle walkways will also be discussed and is a practice that can be applied to receive cost-share in order to rebuild old cattle walkways.

The first sign up deadline to apply for the EQIP program is April 15. Additional sign up deadlines will be announced at the meeting.

For more information contact the USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service of the Farm Service Agency at 436-5020.

## Supper set

The Sts. Mary/Patrick Catholic Daughters are having a spaghetti supper Saturday, March 13, at St. Mary of the Lake Church Hall in Grand Lake following 4 p.m. mass. Tickets for the supper are \$5.

Bingo will follow the supper. For information or tickets, call Linda Saltzman at 775-5348 or 598-4477 or any Sts. Mary/Patrick Catholic Daughter.



SHOWN ABOVE on the Cameron Ferry were just some of the 1300 bikes and their riders who followed the Creole Nature Trail through Cameron Parish last Saturday. 238 bikes were in this ferry load. The tour took in Hackberry, Holly Beach, Cameron, Creole, Grand Lake, and Big Lake. The bikers were taking part in the first annual Blazin' Bikes Rally held in Lake Charles as part of the Mardi Gras celebration. About 3000 bikes and their riders were at the rally. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers)

## Hackberry girls, boys are in the state playoffs

The Hackberry Lady Mustangs, who finished 2nd in district 9C, begin their quest for a third straight state title last week when they cruised by Grace Christian 69-25 in the bi-district round of the playoffs. Edie Leonards scored a game high 19 points. Tobie Devall, who made her first appearance since December, poured in 17 points. Nikki Perry added 9 points.

On Monday night the Lady

Mustangs traveled to Baton Rouge to face Family Christian in the regionals. There they defeated Family Christian 42-28 to advance to the quarterfinals. The Lady Mustangs' strong defense held Family Christian to only 9 points in the first half.

Hackberry will host Pleasant Hill at Hamilton Christian tonight with a chance of a fifth straight Sweet 16 appearance.

The Hackberry Mustangs claimed the district 9C championship last week by way of a first place tie-breaker game with Hyatt that was played in Westlake. The Mustangs came out on top by a score of 43-41.

Chase Hicks led the Mustangs in scoring with 18 points. Brett Stansel added 11. Hackberry finishes the regular season with a 24-9 record and will host Family Christian this Friday in the bi-district round of the playoffs.

## Veterans organizations need members, support

Two Cameron Parish veterans groups currently have membership drives in effect. Both posts have been very active in their local communities for over fifty years but they are presently in dire straits because there has not been many new members joining either post since the Vietnam conflict.

The majority of members in both organizations are elderly now, and many have passed away or moved to nursing homes out of the parish. Also, attendance by other active members has been practically non-existent.

Poor attendance reflects badly upon the post, as the public comes to believe it is inactive, which is not true in the case of both of these organizations. Veterans who are already members are asked to come back to the meetings.

Richard Brothers Post 176, Cameron (American Legion), established in the 1920's by veterans of World War One, received its name from two brothers killed during WWI, Ramie and Dorcelie Richard, both native to the community of Creole.

Membership is open to anyone who served honorably, in the military, during times of declared conflicts and not necessarily had to have been in the conflict itself. These declared conflicts include WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Beirut, and from 1990 to the present, (Desert Shield to Iraqi Freedom).

With local posts worldwide, the American Legion is the world's largest veteran's organization. It was instrumental in the creation of the Veteran's Administration and is universally recognized as the originator of the GI Bill of Rights.

For information on joining, interested veterans may contact Vernon Primeaux at 542-4396 or Berton Daigle at 775-5361.

Meetings are held at 6 p.m. on every third Tuesday of the month at the Cameron K of C Hall.

Doxey Vincent VFW Post 10019, Cameron (Veterans of Foreign Wars), established in 1950 by veterans of World War Two, received its name from James A. Doxey and Armogene Vincent who were killed during WWII, and native to the community of Cameron.

Membership is open to men and women who have shared the military experience in battle during declared conflicts. These declared conflicts include WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Panama, Beirut, and from 1990 to the present (Desert Storm to Iraqi Freedom).

The Veteran of Foreign Wars has a rich tradition in enhancing the lives of millions through its community

## Body found on beach Thursday

The Cameron Parish Sheriff's Office is awaiting autopsy results on a body found last Thursday morning west of Holly Beach by a resident.

Chief Deputy Theos Duhon said the body was of a man who appeared to have jumped off a ship and drowned while trying to swim to shore. He said the man was identified as a resident of the Dominican Republic with a previous record in Florida of illegal entry by swimming.

Duhon reported the man was carrying identification and food wrapped in plastic in his pockets. The Calcasieu Parish Coroner's Office is conducting the autopsy to determine actual cause of death.

"The universe is full of magical things patiently waiting for our wits to grow sharper."  
-Eden Phillpotts

service programs and special projects. "Honoring the dead by helping the living."

For more information on joining, interested veterans may contact Berton Daigle at 775-5361 or Oscar Reyes at 775-5647.

Meetings are held at 6 p.m. on every Monday of the month at the Cameron K of C Hall.

## Absentee voting to begin here

Absentee voting for the March 9 Presidential Primary and parishwide elections will begin Thursday, Feb. 26 and end on Tuesday, March 2 in the Cameron Registrar of Voters office in the basement of the courthouse.

In addition to the presidential primary vote, there will be a vote on a proposition that would exempt from property taxes drilling rigs that are being stored, stacked, converted, renovated or repaired in Cameron Parish.

A parishwide garbage tax of 7.86 mills is up for renewal. Also up for renewals are these district taxes:

\*Hackberry Fire Maintenance Tax, 4.71 mills.

\*Cameron Fire Maintenance Tax, 5 mills.

\*Hackberry Gravity Drainage Maintenance Tax, 4.50 mills.

\*Creole Waterworks Maintenance Tax, 6.68 mills.

## Police Jury to meet on Monday

The Cameron Parish Police Jury will hold its monthly meetings Monday, March 1 with an agenda meeting at 3 p.m. and the regular meeting at 5 p.m.

The jury is expected to adopt a resolution recalling the contributions of the late Roland Trosclair, Jr., who served on the jury some years ago.

A number of appointments to various parish boards are on the agenda.

Bids will be accepted on a dump truck, beach sweeper and on the paving of Brian's Circle.

The president will be given authority to sign an amendment to a lease of the Johnson Bayou multipurpose building and on property in Grand Lake by Council on Aging.

Permits being sought are for a helibase at the Sabine Wildlife Refuge and for a road and subdivision at Big Lake by John C. Cary and David Carriere.



DO YOU REMEMBER? The 1955 Annual Staff of Creole High School is shown above, from left: Lou Etta Doxey Nunez, Layton Miller, Norma Jean Rogers Blake, Charles LeBoeuf, Richard "Speck" Hebert, Steven Bourriaque, Martin Theriot, Doris Hebert, Edna Morales Doxey, Alvin Miller, Shirley Savoie. (Photo courtesy of Doris Hebert)



THE CAMERON PARISH Tourist Commission set up this stand on the west side of the Cameron Ferry Saturday to welcome the hundreds of bikers who came through the parish on the Blazin' Bikes Rally out of Lake Charles. Bikers were served king cake and cold drinks by Cindy McGee, Carolyn Thibodeaux, and Sammy Faulk, who manned the hospitality booth. Also pictured were some of the bikers who took part in the rally -- Ronny Gale Nunez, Dwight and Wendy Savoie, and Butch and Mary Willis. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

# FUNERAL

## MRS. JORETTA MCELFRISH

Mrs. Joretta McElfresh, 61, of Lake Charles died Sunday, Feb. 15, 2004 in her home.

She was born in Pasadena, Tex and had lived in Grand Chenier from 1987 to 1997. She was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Survivors include her husband, William McElfresh of Lake Charles; one daughter, Tina Marie Swire of Lake Charles; one brother, Ed Samples of California; one sister, Alena Bybebe Hallman of Maryland; and three grandchildren.

Her funeral was held Thursday, Feb. 19 in Hixson Funeral Home. Bishop Steve Baxter officiated. Burial was in Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery.

## Hackberry Jr. 4-Hers have meet

Kaitlyn Hicks gave demonstration on electricity, and Jeb Backlund gave a demonstration on insects for the January meeting of the Hackberry Jr. 4-H club.

Rachel Wilkins gave a report on her pet project. Thomas Ducote reported on the parish livestock show. Joseph Abshire reported on upcoming workshops. John Eric White reported on the upcoming duck off. Melissa Swier reported on record book workshops to be held every Monday. Lauren Broussard reported on the upcoming district and state livestock shows.

Bashby Thomas, Crd Chairman, reported on the community service projects coming up in February. They are: Valentines to nursing home residents; Hot chocolate to teachers; Bring Community coffee UPC labels to Ms. Tanner; and Giving the name of Steven Carter, a soldier serving our country overseas, to write letters to.

In March, the club will collect magazines to place in hospitals, nursing homes, and doctor's offices. Work in the school courtyard should also begin in March.

Club leader, Margaret Shove, reminded the club about project workshop Feb. 5, and challenge camp March 12.

The next 4-H meeting will be March 31, Achievement Day in Hackberry is on April 3.

Sean Hicks Reporter



THE CAMERON ELEMENTARY School MathCounts team participated in the annual competition at McNeese on Feb 14. The students were (standing, from) Shawnie Mock, Kerri Cooke, Molly Alexander, Jody Trosclair, Alex Bonsall; (kneeling) Katelyn Horn, Travis Trahan, and Mikalee Mooney.

(Photo courtesy of Earl Booth, MathCounts Coach for Cameron Elementary,

## Cameron Outdoors

By LOSTON MCEVERS



### SPRING IS NEAR

We got a few days of nice weather last week and many of us enjoyed the outdoors, going hunting and fishing or getting the clover cut in the yard. I feel like spring is in the air, although I'm sure we'll have more cold weather.

I got the new duck count for the Coastal zone for Feb. 7 - 9. This is how the count went: Mallards - 207,000, mottled ducks - 39,000, gadwall (greys) - 287,000, wigeons - 10,000, green-winged teals - 180,000, blue-winged teals - 23,000, shovelers (spoonbills) - 105,000, pintails 291,000. A total of dabblers 1,142,000. Diver ducks were ringnecks - 67,000, scaup - 30,000 and canvasbacks - 0. A total of 97,000 divers.

Our total population count for the Southwest was 1,239,000 ducks and 92,000 coots (pool-dos). The Southeast count altogether was 1,670,00 ducks and 763,000 coots. It seems we were 20 days late and lots of ducks short for our season, when it ended.

There was lots of water across the rice field areas, with nearly unlimited places for ducks to feed and rest, compared to our marshes.

### MIAMI CORPORATION FISHING

The Miami Corporation Permit Fishing will be open on March 13 and run through Aug. 28. The permit doesn't grant access to Rockefeller Refuge through the Superior Canal at anytime for any purpose. Motors are 25 hp maximum with no more than 33.3 cubic inches displacement per manufacturer's specs. Fishing is from sunrise and sunset. Permits are \$20 each and one guest per permit is allowed.

Remember this is sports fishing only. Read your permit carefully so you won't get your permit revoked.

### LEMESCHE BASS CLUB

The Lemesche Bass Club held their first meeting and supper last week. The club will fish an open tournament on Rockefeller Refuge on Saturday, March 6, launching at the East End Locks. Fishing times will be from sunrise (6:33 a.m.) with weigh-in at 3 p.m. A \$20 entry fee (\$40 team) to enter. A club member may bring either club members or an outside person. A five bass stringer will be weighed and also a (pot takes all) for the largest redfish.

The club's meeting will be the first Wednesday of each month at the KC Hall in Creole at 6 p.m. The tourna-

ment dates set are:

March 21: Big Burns - Draw partners.

April 25: Amoco - Draw partners.

May 16: Rockefeller Refuge, Grand Chenier - Draw partners.

June 6: Amoco - Pick partners.

July 11: Rockefeller Refuge, Grand Chenier - Pick partners.

Aug. 28: Big Burns - Pick partners.

These are all Sunday tournaments, except Aug. 28 which is on a Saturday.

All members are reminded that before each draw tournament, entry-fee money must be at the meeting before the tournament, so names may be put in hat to draw. No names will be taken after draw at meeting. Also all membership fees of \$35 must be turned in by the March 3 meeting.

Members are reminded during regular tournament in the "Choupique Pot," all choupique has a minimum length of 16 inches to be legal. Ricky Canik will prepare March meeting's meal, with a catfish "coo-be-yon" (court-bouillon) gravy. See you there!

### NEWS BRIEFS

I had a talk with personnel at the Lacassine National Refuge. Although the pool opens April 6, there will be no tournament fishing allowed in the pool.

The story on private canals: Although public funds may have been used to dig certain canals, and locks have been using these canals for years, the Supreme Court last year ruled that just because the water from private canals come from public source, the Courts said that waterways built after Louisiana became a state in 1812 are private, as long as the waterway does not divert an existing public waterway.

This is still a touchy situation all over the state and even here in Cameron Parish. In fact these private canals can be blocked by the landowners.

Next week, we'll begin to put the Best Fishing Times.

Catch a Big Fish and send me a picture for the Pilot.

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## Computer classes are offered here

Computer classes will be held at the Cameron Parish Library during the next several months with each class open to 12 participants.

The classes will be sponsored by Sowela Community College and taught by Susan Nicholson.

Microsoft Windows XP classes will be taught March 9 and 16 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$30 for the two nights.

Microsoft Word will be taught March 23, 30, April 6, 13, and 20 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$90 for the six nights.

Microsoft Excel classes will be taught May 4, 11, 18, 25, June 1 and 8 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The cost is \$90 for the six nights.

For more information call 337-775-5421. Payment is required prior to start of classes.

Annex, 6:30 p.m.

These schools are also for new applicants wishing to become a commissioner for Cameron Parish. Anyone can apply to become a commissioner by attending one of these schools of instructions and taking the written examination to become certified.

If you are the commissioner-in-charge or if you are chosen to serve as commissioner and/or alternate commissioner for the upcoming Presidential Primary Election to be held on Tuesday, March 9, it is mandatory that you attend one of these courses.

## Commissioners instruction class announced here

Carl Broussard, Cameron Parish Parish Clerk of Court, announced there will be a course of instructions for all election commissioners-in-charge, commissioners, alternate commissioners and anyone wishing to become a commissioner as follows:

Monday, March 1 - Holly Beach Fire Station, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 2 - Klondike Community Center, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 3 - Cameron Parish Police Jury

Annex, 6:30 p.m.

### -The CAMERON PARISH PILOT- USPS 086-980

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## Letters to the Editor

### Appreciates the Library

Dear Editor:  
My name is Keith Hardy of Panama City Beach, Fla. I work as a captain on offshore supply boats and on occasion have the opportunity to work out of the Cameron area. I am writing this letter concerning the Cameron Parish Library.

I have been a patron of the library since Oct. 2000 and will visit whenever I am in the Cameron area. The library is a great asset to this community. Because of this library, I have learned about Southwest Louisiana's history, culture and the people who reside here.

Observations I have made on my many visits are the staff are always helpful and friendly to those who use the library. This is a direct reflection of the people of Cameron. I have been to many libraries over the last 25 years on my travels and this is one of the best I have seen. Also, this library is doing a fine job of scheduling programs to encourage educating the public of many subjects which are published in the Cameron Pilot.

The services provided by any library are invaluable to the community they serve. They promote education, knowledge and resources that many people may not otherwise have access to.

For those who would criticize this library must not use the resources that are provided. Not everyone can afford to buy books or own a computer. For those such as me that visit the area, it is really nice to find a place where the people are friendly and I can check out a book, tape or check e-mail from home. To me, this speaks volumes about a community.

Sincerely;  
/s/Keith M. Hardy  
Panama City Beach, Fla.

### Superintendent, parish resident

Dear Editor:  
Recently you inquired about my residence pursuant to statements made during my interview. I am pleased to share that I leased a very comfortable property in the Grand Lake area with an effective occupancy date of Friday, Jan 12, 2003; that is, I was able to move to Cameron Parish only eleven days after my appointment. Additionally, my spouse joined me in Grand Lake on Feb. 1, 2003.

For your information, time parameters did not permit me to register and vote for the millage renewal proposition for Cameron Parish Schools in Jan. 2003, however, I have voted as a Cameron resident in each election since Jan. 2003 including the significant bond proposal in Grand Lake this past July.

During the past year I have been fortunate enough to conduct community informational meetings in all of the school zones of our parish. These meetings have provided me with countless opportu-

nities to become acquainted with many of our residents. As you are aware, we have delightful families and individuals in the school district.

I have enjoyed serving the students, school employees, and citizens of Cameron Parish during the past 13 months, and I look toward the future with enthusiasm and excitement.

Best wishes to you,  
/s/Doug Chance  
Superintendent,  
Cameron Parish Schools

### Memorial books told by Library

New memorial books at the Cameron Parish Library include:

Gardening Southern Style, Theresa Mudd by Virginia "Tookie" Dupont;

Step by Step Yard Care, Theresa Mudd by Terrance, Crystal, Dusty, Scott and Ty Savoie;

Explorers and Traders, Nolan Savoie by Terrance, Crystal, Dusty, Scott and Ty Savoie;

United States Air Force Search to Rescue Survival Techniques, Glyn Taylor by George, Marie and Sue Kelley;

One Pot, Slow Pot and Clay Pot Cooking, Inez Bonsall by Gloria Kelley;

Inside Boxing, Glyn Taylor by Gloria Kelley;

Fruits & Vegetables, Inez Bonsall by Charlotte Troscclair;

Great Photographs of World War II, Clark Hoffpauir, Sr. by Charlotte Troscclair family;

Weekend Quilter, Olga Butsey Carter by Charlotte Troscclair;

The Illustrated Practical Home Encyclopedia, Theresa Mudd by Charlotte Troscclair;

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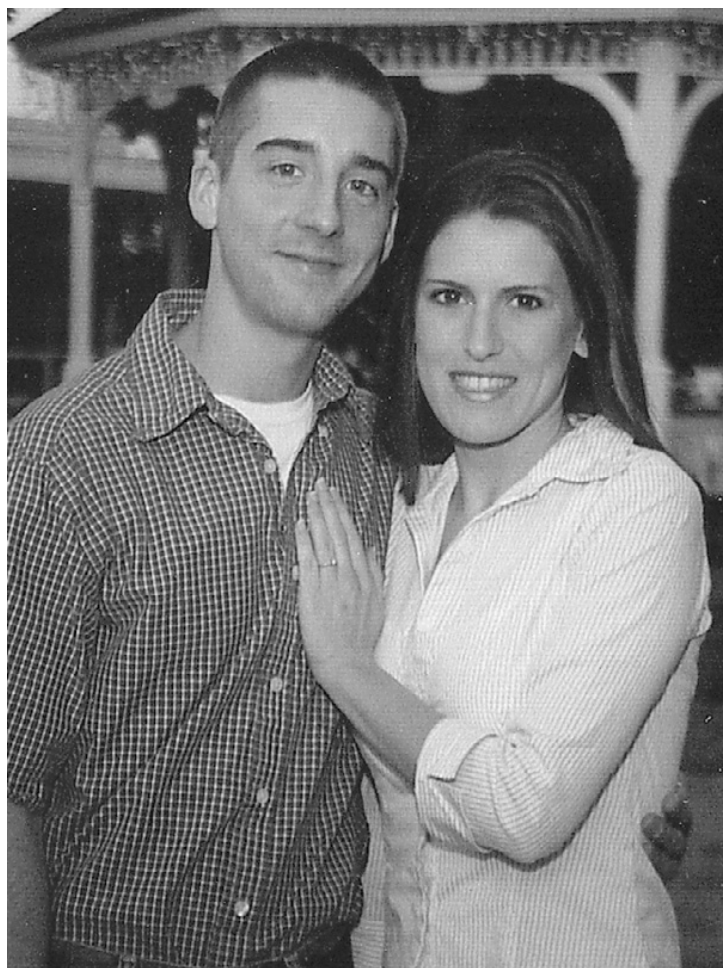
### Career Fair is set at McNeese

Businesses interested in recruiting McNeese State University graduates and/or students for full-time, part-time or summer positions are invited to make plans to participate in the spring 2004 Career Fair sponsored by McNeese Career Services.

The career fair is scheduled from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday, March 15, in Parra Ballroom of the New Ranch. The theme for this semester will be "Follow the Path to Excellence."

The event is held each semester for alumni and students to submit resumes and to discuss career options and opportunities with representatives from business, industry, government and professional schools.

Business interested in reserving space may submit the vendor fair form online at [www.mcneese.edu/career/](http://www.mcneese.edu/career/) or contact McNeese Career Services Center at 1-800-622-3352, ext. 5612.



**OSCAR AND RENEE Reyes of Cameron announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Nicole Reyes, to Joseph Abshire, son of Dale and Karen Abshire of Meaux. The wedding is set for Saturday, Mar. 27 at The Ballroom in Lafayette beginning at 3 p.m.**

### Boat class is offered

The Lake Charles Power Squadron will be teaching a one day Boat Smart Class on Saturday, Feb. 28 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. The class will be held at the Lake Charles Power Squadron building located at the I-210 park.

Louisiana law now requires boat operators born after Jan 1 1988 to complete an approved safe boating

class before they can operate any motorized boat over 10 horsepower.

The class is taught free to anyone 12 years old and up but there is a charge for materials. Lunch will be provided by the Power Squadron. Call Ship to Shore at 474.0730 to preregister or for questions. Sheron Faulk Safety Officer L.C. Power Squadron



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## Lagniappe Two Retirement Home Living Notes



By GENEVA GRIFFITH

I now have a new title, Great-grandmother, with the birth last night of McCall Marie Matt. She was born to my granddaughter and her husband, Janay and Jocque Matt. She was named after a long ago ancestor, Dr. McCall, who was the first settler of Grand Chenier, eight generations ago, and her grandmother on the Giblin side, who was named Marie. Both names go back at least eight generations.

This is my first great-grandchild. I am very proud to say that this has made me very happy.

I have something else to be very happy about, this bright sunshine we have been experiencing. Beau and I have resumed our daily walks around the compound and enjoying very much.

In my daily walks I have run into my neighbors and everyone seems to be anxious for our Mardi Gras party we have planned for the clubhouse. We are all taking a covered dish.

I ran into someone this week whom I had taken a picture of many years ago in Cameron. He was commander of the the Louisiana Am-Vets.

He came to Cameron to deliver some baby chicks to 11 Cameron 4-H club members to raise and start a chicken project. I must have taken it because my name was on it. It pictured Ory G. Poret, Gerald Simmons, associate county and Glenn Quinn, a 4-H member. It was taken in 1958 with the chickens.

### School Menus

Lunch menus for Cameron Parish Schools are as follows:

Thursday, Feb. 26 - Hot ham and cheese sandwiches, baked beans, oven fries, chocolate cake, vanilla cream frosting, hamburger bun, catsup.

Friday, Feb. 27 - Fish portion, baked beans, oven fries, banana pudding, catsup, hamburger bun.

Monday, Mar. 1 - cheeseburger, oven fries, lettuce cup, lemon cookie, hamburger bun, catsup.

Tuesday, Mar. 2 - Taco salad, fixings cup, ranch beans, baked potato, yellow cake, chocolate cream frosting, tortilla chips.

Wednesday, Mar. 3 - Spaghetti and meat sauce, tossed salad, peach cobbler, buttered corn, garlic toast.

All meals are served with milk.

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## PUBLIC NOTICE

Seismic PreWork Meeting in Cameron Parish, La.

Monday, Mar. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7 p.m.

Klondike Meeting Hall  
On Veterans Memorial Drive  
All area officials, landowners and other interested parties are invited.

Veritas Geophysical under contract with Seismic Exchange will be conducting 3D Seismic operations in the Northeast portion of Cameron Parish, La. from April 2004 thru October 2004

RUN: Feb. 26, March 4, 11 & 18 (F-46)

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# It Seems Just Like Yesterday

By Keith Hambrick



(Lake Charles American Press, Feb. 24, 1941)  
**SURVEY ORDERED BY HOUSE**

Orders for the navigation and defense survey of the Mermentau River, authorized last Oct. 28 by the U. S. House Rivers and Harbors Committee, have been issued by the War Department, it was learned here today.

An early date for such reports, March 21, has been set for the report on navigation and defense aspects of the Mermentau called for by the committee.

(Cameron Pilot, Feb. 26, 1971)  
**REAPPORTIONMENT LINKS CAMERON AND JEFF DAVIS PARISHES**

Under the tentative plan for the reapportionment of the Louisiana House of Representatives, Cameron and Jeff Davis parishes would comprise one district and would share one representative. At the present time Cameron and Calcasieu are in one district and share five representatives.

Some opposition already has developed in Cameron Parish to the plan, with it being pointed out that since Jeff Davis has a much larger population than Cameron Parish that it will be hard to ever elect a representative from Cameron.

At the present time, one of the five Calcasieu-Cameron representatives is from Cameron--Conway LeBlau.

The Cameron Lions Club last week adopted a resolution urging that Cameron and Calcasieu have historical ties and there are many areas of mutual interest between the parishes.

The reapportionment plan will not be final until it is approved by the legislature, either at a special session or at the regular fiscal session in May.

## "POP" CHERAMIE HONORED

Kilran C. "Pop" Cheramie of Cameron was feted on his 80th birthday with a dinner Sunday at Fred's Restaurant in Cameron. 71 members of his family attended, including his eight living children and their families, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Children attending, along with their families, were Kilran, Jr., Angelette, Berman, Randolph, Norman and Pat, and Mrs. Alcie LeBlanc (Violet Cheramie).

## SWEETLAKE COMMUNITY CENTER

By Mrs. Tom Taylor

More than 200 persons turned out for the benefit talent show held at the Sweetlake Community Center recently.

Featured were many locally talented acts, including speaking, ballets, humorous skits, sacred music, singing

and band music.

Those in charge of the program, appointed by Lyons Breaux were: Mesdames Albert Guidry, Wayne Foster, Clyde LeDoux and Jerald Helms, with Jerald Helms as master of ceremonies.

The Sweetlake Community Center was organized in October of 1955. In the first eight years of its operation the Center was used 258 times.

For the past several years it has barely been existing with the exception of a few improvements such as the interior of the building getting a fresh coat of paint and the piano repaired and refinished.

It was during this depression period, voluntary workers did repairs which were an absolute necessity in order to save the building from total deterioration. Material used for repairs as well as improvements were made possible by generous donors. Butane gas was provided in a similar manner.

## AMERICAN LEGION MEETS

A unanimous decision to sponsor Ellis McWhirter as a candidate for Area A Commander of the 7th District of American Legion was made at the meeting of the Richard Bros. Post. No. 176 held in the Post home in Creole last week.

Jules Dronet was in charge of the business meeting.

## WARM WEATHER ON THE CHENIER

By Elora Montie

Chenier folks enjoyed beautiful warm weather the past week with 75 to 78 degree temperatures. Folks took advantage of the nice weather in many ways. Some were busy with their spring Irish potato planting which is always the first crop planted here. A very few who still plant corn were busy preparing their land for later planting.

The warm weather this past week brought out many more blossoms on fruit trees and berry vines are covered with white flowers as though there will be a good crop this year.

## ROUNABOUT THE PARISH

At the Grand Chenier Methodist Church Sunday was "Ladies' Day." Miss Patsy Granger was guest speaker. Mrs. Ward Fontenot sang a solo. Mrs. Lyle Crain led the all ladies choir.

At the Feb. 16 meeting of Thehma Hackett Eastern Star Chapter in Cameron, past matrons and past patrons were honored: J. A. Davis, Emma Nunez, Tavia Carter, Norma Blake, Charles Rogers, Voelkel Dyson, Tom Steed, Mary Henry and Arnold Rutherford.

Arnold Granger of Grand Lake was named the Outstanding Senior Engineering student at McNeese at the Engineer's Week Banquet.

meeting the following students were picked from Cameron Elementary to attend Challenge Camp in March - Jody Trosclair, Shelby Authement, Shawnee Mock, Lakasha Lassein.

District and State Livestock exhibitors were recognized and they announced the places the won.

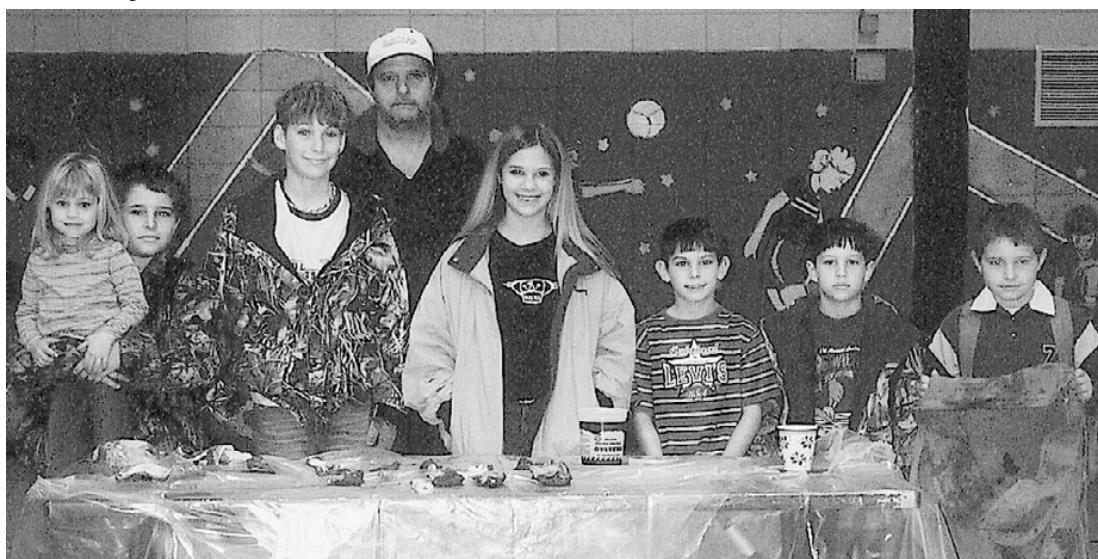
Ms Penny gave a talk on the "Running of the Mardi Gras" and "Gumbo Yaya". Vice Presidents Kade Pierson and Ross Rowland explained the history of Mardi Gras and the King Cake.

A Project Book Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, February 26th beginning at 3:30 p.m.

## Chocolate Eclair Cake

- 1 (16 ounce) package graham crackers
- 2 (3.5 ounce) packages instant vanilla pudding mix
- 4 cups milk
- 1 (16 ounce) package frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 ounce) package prepared chocolate frosting

Line the bottom of a 9x13 inch baking pan with graham crackers. In a large bowl, combine the milk and vanilla pudding according to directions on box. Fold in the whipped topping. Spread a layer of the pudding mixture over the graham crackers. Alternate the graham cracker and pudding layers up to the top of the pan. Cook the container of prepared frosting, uncovered in the microwave for 1 minute on half power. Pour over the top of the cake. Refrigerate for at least 1-2 hours before serving. Makes 24 servings



**RUBEN DOXEY gave an oyster demonstration to the Cameron Elementary School on Thursday, Jan. 8 in the school gym in conjunction with the Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival which saluted the oyster industry. Pictured with Ruben are several Doxeyes who attend Cameron Elementary. They are Candace DeBarge, Barrett Doxey, Ross Rowland, Mikalee Mooney, Chace Doxey, Marcus Doxey, and Kent Doxey.**

# Folks and Memories

By W. T. BLOCK, JR.



(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is a continuation of a memoir of the Rev. Frank Sweeney, 1859-1936, who was a Methodist preacher in Grand Chenier. He was a great-uncle of W. T. Block, Jr.)

Going back to my Christian experience, my friend that was with me in my early life always encouraged me in all I did to build up God's Kingdom.

I shall never forget the first time I was called on to pray in public. A Presbyterian preacher by the name of Burgess, who was a carpenter was in our neighborhood selling Bibles, and we invited him to preach. And just before they commenced singing the song before he was to begin his sermon, he whispered to me if I would make the concluding prayer.

Being a stammerer, I could hardly talk at all; I hesitated for fear I would stammer and make a complete failure, but I braced up and said, "I will do the best I can."

He said that's all the Lord requires of you. So when he finished his sermon, he called on me to pray, and to the astonishment of all, I did not stutter. This went out over the neighborhood, and when Brother J. O. Hoffpaur, who was our pastor, preached at his next appointment, he called on me also. So from that time on, they piled the work on me.

I was soon made Sunday School superintendent, a position I filled for 5 years. This was a great help to me. It got me over the embarrassment to some extent. I very sensibly felt my inefficiency for any kind of public work, my not having any education scarcely at all, and afflicted with an impediment of speech; but notwithstanding I was willing to try.

After serving my home church as Sunday School superintendent, steward, and recording steward for several years, I felt a call to preach and was assisted as to where to get a license to preach.

And in Sept., 1887 at the quarterly conference, Rev. John Miller was presiding elder and I received my license to preach. I shall never forget my first sermon. It was announced that I would preach on Sunday night. A large congregation gathered; my father was there, my mother, and many that were not accustomed to going to church, but God was with me. My text was, "Let your light shine that others may see your good works," etc.

The home folks asked me preach once a month, which I did, and on one occasion, I met John McCall, who had moved to Leesburg (Cameron), the parish seat of Cameron Parish; and one of my school mates, Joseph Suttles, who had taken up the practice of law and had also moved there, invited me to preach for them.

They had no church, but held services in the court house. My first effort that I made there was quite a trial for me, but the Lord was with me, and seemingly I made a good impression. From that time on for four years, I had a regular appointment there.

I was put in charge of the Grand Chenier circuit as a supply pastor several times, finishing out the year for some of the preachers whose health would fail them.

In 1889 I finished out Rev. S. H. Cooper's term, who only served 3 months. In 1890 for

Wilson Moore, who only served 2 months. In 1892 I served Sulphur Mine circuit.

That year while holding a meeting with Rev. R. M. Blocker helping me, I was converted (?convicted) about the use of tobacco. A little boy, the son of Clyde Perkins who was keeping a store, saw me buy a piece of tobacco, take a chew in his presence, and he ran to his house and told his mother that it was no sin to chew tobacco for he had just seen the preacher chew it.

The first time I called on Sister Perkins after that, she told me about it. She had been trying to get him to quit using it, and had told him it was a sin to steal tobacco and chew it.

I resolved right then that I would quit. So about a week after I returned home, I met Bro. C. T. Stables, who was then on the Grand Chenier circuit. He was boarding near where I lived, and as we were riding along one afternoon, going to Leesburg to get our mail, I took a chew and offered him one. And he said to me, "Brother Sweeney, suppose we quit!" I threw the tobacco over the fence, and that was my last tobacco.

In 1893 I supplied the Grand Chenier circuit. I visited my brother Henry (Henry Sidney Sweeney) at Calcasieu, and preached for the people there at Calcasieu, where I built my first church. In 1894 I kept up my regular (duties) on the Grand Chenier circuit, the same as the preachers in charge. The people gave me every encouragement, which I shall always appreciate.

I had sold out at Leesburg and bought the Charlie Suttle place, paying \$1,000 cash and borrowing \$500, giving a mortgage on the place. I made a very poor crop that year, and my heart's desire was to join the conference.

While all my children were picking cotton one afternoon, I said to them, "How would you all like for me to join the conference and give my entire time to the itinerancy?" "Oh," they exclaimed. "Do, Papa, we will be so glad." I prayed over the matter and wrote to Dr. J. M. Beard, who was then presiding elder of the Opelousas District, how I felt about the matter, and to learn if he could give me work if I would sell out and join the conference. He wrote me a very encouraging letter and told me to come to conference in December and he would insure me a circuit.

So I sold out everything, put my children in school in Lake Charles, and I went to the conference in New Orleans. This was the first conference I had ever attended, and my first visit to New Orleans.

Dr. B. Carodine entertained the conference that year. In 1895 I was sent to the Dry Creek circuit, where Rev. S. J. Davis was presiding elder. At the conference of 1895, I was admitted on trial and was returned to the Dry Creek circuit for the year 1896.

In August of that year I married Miss Nannie Kent. Rev. Jackson, a superannuated preacher, performed the ceremony. In 1897 I was sent out to the Pine Grove circuit, Baton Rouge District.

I moved by way of Baton Rouge, when I landed there with my wife and four children (by my first wife) and I only had \$10.00. We went to a hotel and got dinner, which cost me \$4.50. I saw if I did not get a cheaper place, I

would not have money enough to get away from there and to my work, which was 30 miles away in Pine Grove.

So I went seeking to find a place to spend the night after having gone to 3 private boarding houses and was refused on account of their being full. At the fourth place, the lady, after saying no, asked who I was. I told her I was a Methodist preacher on my way to Pine Grove. "Well," she said, "that alters cases. Come in with your family and I will make room." Just as I left there, Bro. W. H. Holmes had heard of me being there, and he met me and said, "Brother Sweeney, the parsonage..... (unfinished)."

(It is indeed sad that Rev. Frank Sweeney never returned to complete his autobiography, which might have contained more early Cameron Parish and Methodist history. Nevertheless his story reveals much about the age in which he wrote. --W. T. Block)

1. In 1773 two Spanish missions in East Texas were abandoned along with 44,000 branded Spanish cattle. By 1820 the increase of those herds had swum across the Sabine River and were grazing in Louisiana.

2. At the end of the Civil War, my grandmother, Ellen Sweeney, reported that at night, window shutters were barred to keep out the panthers, which came out of the Front Marsh in search of a goat, calf or hog.

3. About 1890, when my mother Sarah Jane Sweeney was age 6, she stood on the back porch of the Jim Sweeney home and watched her grandmother, also named Sarah Jane Sweeney, feed clabber to an old sow. Each time the sow emptied the trough, she would grunt for more clabber, and her Grandma Sweeney kept feeding it to her until finally the sow's stomach burst and she died.

4. Both Aunts Lizzie Bonsall and Harriet McCall were widowed as a result of the Battle of Mansfield. Andrew Sweeney drowned as a result of the sinking of the schooner Two Sisters off Galveston Island in Oct. 1881.

5. A term of 3 months was usual in the common public schools of the Southwest, where harvest ended about Dec. 1 and spring plowing began about Mar. 1st.

6. In 1892, when the cubic-mile sulphur deposit was discovered, the town was called Sulphur Mine for years before it was shortened to Sulphur.

Someone born on February 29 was born on Leap Day, or Leap Year Day. They were NOT born ON Leap Year. Leap Year is the year we are in, 2004. Anyone can be born IN a Leap Year. Leap Year lasts all year. Leap Day Babies were born ON Leap Day. THAT is what is rare. In fact, the odds are 1 in 1461!

# Refuges open Mar. 15 to sports fishers

Refuge Managers Terry Delaine and Glen Harris announced today that Sabine and Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuges (NWR) will open for public sport fishing on Monday, March 15. The refuges will remain open to fishing until October 15. Legal hours for public access are sunrise to sunset.

Anglers may harvest all fish species in accordance to the Louisiana Recreational Fishing Regulations, including largemouth bass, with no additional restrictions. Anglers are asked to complete a creel survey card to assist refuge biologists determine angling pressure and success rates.

Creel cards for Sabine NWR will be available at the Northwest Boat Lift. The refuge's East Boat Lift is no longer in operation due to dense vegetation. Outboard motors up to 40 horsepower may be used in Management Unit 3 (Pool 3).

Sabine NWR's Management Units 1A and 1B (Pools 1A and 1B) will be restricted to pirogue, kayak and canoe use only. The severe drought of 2000 decimated the catfish population and fingerlings have not been available for re-stocking. Paddling enthusiasts are welcome to explore these freshwater impoundments and view wildlife and their habitat.

The West Cove Public Use Area has a launch on the south side that can accommodate two boats at a time and a second launch on the north side that provides access to the interior of the refuge as well. Additionally, there is a two-slot saltwater launch on the north side which provides access to West Cove of Calcasieu Lake.

Hog Island Gully Public Use Area has a boat launch available for anglers to access interior portions of the refuge and a two-slot saltwater launch which provides access to Calcasieu Lake.

Cast netting on Sabine NWR will be permitted only during the Louisiana Inland Shrimp season. Cast netting hours are from noon to sunset. All cast netters are reminded that the maximum refuge legal cast net is five feet (5 ft.) in length.

Anglers interested in fishing at Cameron Prairie NWR will be able to access the Gibbstown and East Cove Units. Persons may use the East Cove Unit when the Grand Bayou Boat Bay is open. Anglers can check on the status of the boat bay openings by calling 337-598-4235. Fishing opportunities on the Gibbstown Unit are available along Bankfishing Road and in the Outfall Canal.

Refuge anglers can obtain fishing regulations at either Visitor Centers or at one of the public use areas on Sabine and Cameron Prairie NWR's. Please practice good boating and safety habits and respect the rights of fellow fishermen and refuge visitors. Please observe and obey the "No Wake Zones".

Possession of all applicable Louisiana fishing licenses are required to fish and cast net on the refuges.

If you have questions or need directions to either refuge please call Sabine NWR at 337-762-3816 or Cameron Prairie at 337-598-2216.



# Wetlands Program to be aired March 2 on LPB

"Disappearing Wetlands of Louisiana," a Turner South film production is set to be shown throughout the state on LPB, on Tuesday, March 2 at 9 p.m. The 30-minute documentary takes a close-up view of coastal Louisiana and the people working to save a crippled yet valuable ecosystem.

According to Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Deputy Secretary Randy Hanchey, DNR was contacted by a Georgia production company last summer, and agreed to collaborate with the production of the show. "The department obtained rights to rebroadcast the show and with the support of the state's Public Broadcast System, viewing of the film in Louisiana has been made possible," Hanchey said.

All public school Superintendents in the state are also being sent a free copy of the video and asked to share it with science teachers and library resource staff. Teachers can use the video in the classroom as a way of making this environmental issue both topical and understandable for the students.

DNR's public information office will be responsible for handling and distributing the video. Further distribution of the video is limited but inquiries can be made to 225-342-0556 or e-mail inquiries to info@dnr.state.la.us.

The Louisiana Public Broadcast television stations scheduled to air the Disappearing Wetlands of Louisiana include KLTL-TV 18 in Lake Charles.