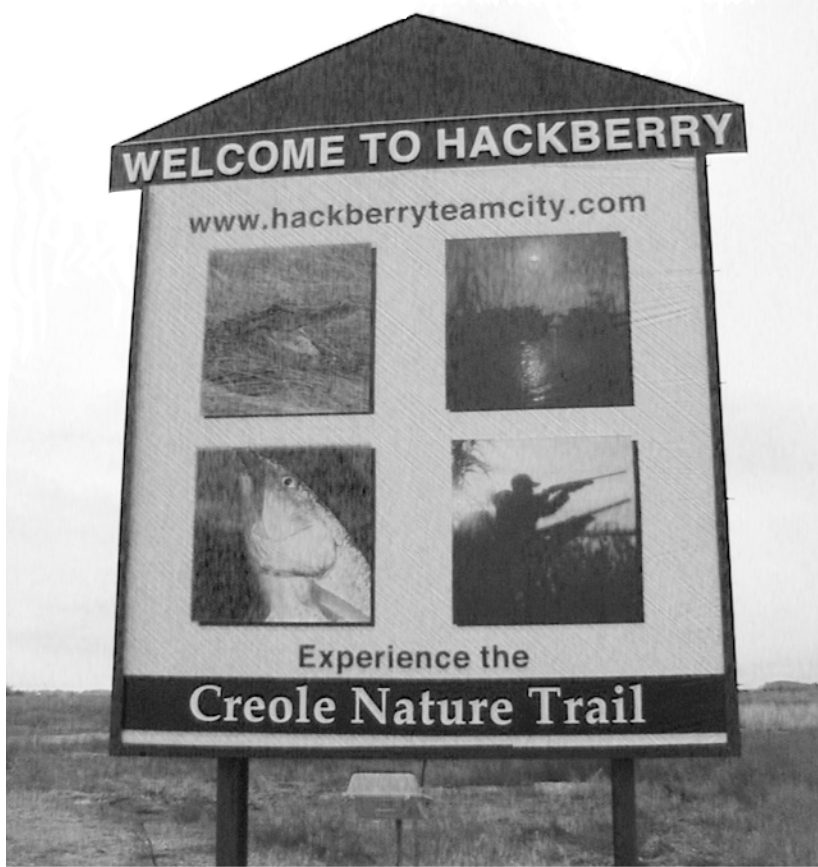




THESE WINDBLOWN oak trees along the beach west of Holly Beach are one of the sights along the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road, which has been named as one of the nation's ten most threatened scenic landscapes.



A NEW SIGN welcoming visitors to Hackberry was recently erected just north of town on Hwy. 27. The \$1000 cost of the sign was split by companies with major interests in the Hackberry area -- Dominion and Dynegy.

## Two accidents block highway near Creole

A section of Hwy. 27 north of Creole was blocked for over four hours Friday, Feb. 21, due to two related accidents.

Around 6 a.m. a tractor-trailer rig hauling pipe missed a driveway and backed into the ditch just south of the Little Chenier Road intersection, blocking most of the highway.

Shortly afterward, a pickup truck and a car were stopped in the northbound lane, waiting to get around the accident when they were struck from behind by a third vehicle.

The car was knocked into the ditch and the pickup was shoved forward. A heavy fog probably contributed to the chain-reaction accident, according to Cameron Sheriff's Office spokesman Theos Duhon.

A male passenger from the middle vehicle and the female driver of the third vehicle were transported to South Cameron Memorial Hospital where one was treated and released and the other was transferred to a Lake Charles hospital and later released. An infant, properly restrained in a car seat in the third vehicle, was not injured.

The Sheriff's office reminds motorists to slow down and use low beams in fog and inclement weather.

## Funds available

Some Workforce Investment Act funds are available for eligible disadvantaged youth in Cameron Parish, according to the Cameron Community Action Agency. Eligible youth must be between 14 and 21, with a low income, deficient in basic literacy skills, school dropout, pregnant, offender or someone with a disability requiring special assistance to secure employment.

The program is sponsored by the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, Workforce Investment Board and funded by the Workforce Investment Act. For more information call Dinah Landry at 775-5668 or Lana Miller at 598-5158.

## Bid accepted on four motorists turnouts

Bids on four turnouts for motorists on the Creole Nature Trail in Cameron Parish were opened by the Southwest Louisiana Convention & Visitors Bureau board of directors last Thursday.

W. E. McDonald & Son's bid of \$364,709 was the low bid and although it was \$59,000 higher than expected Shelley Johnson, Bureau executive director, recommended that it be accepted.

She said rising costs make it unlikely rebidding would bring lower bids and the project is ready to begin.

Johnson said that the tourist bureau might lose a \$320,000 federal grant if it didn't move on this project.

The board approved using \$70,740 that had been set aside for other grant applications to cover the costs.

The four turnouts will be built off of Hwy. 27 between Hackberry and Holly Beach to provide parking for motorists to view the birds and wildlife in the marshes. The road has no shoulders and parking along it has always provided a hazard.

One of the turnouts is 2.5 miles south of Hackberry in the Sabine Wildlife Refuge. A bridge will cross the roadside canal and there will be paved parking for about a dozen vehicles.

The other three turnouts will be on privately-owned property.



CAMERON PARISH library personnel here display the library's new teleconference system. From left are Jody Roberts, Charlotte Trosclair, parish librarian; and Dede Nunez, co-ordinator for the new system.

## Telecommunications grant told here

By CYNDI SELLERS

The Cameron Parish Library System now has the capability of hosting a wide variety of teleconferencing events, thanks to a grant received through the Lake Charles Memorial Hospital.

As part of the Community Hospital Telehealth Consortium, LCMH has supplied equipment and transmission fees for each branch of the Cameron library system.

The equipment, consisting of two 36-inch television monitors, a video camera, document projector, stands, and a ceiling mounted room sized microphone, has been installed at the main branch and is ready for use.

Identical packages have been delivered for each branch and will be installed as each branch opens.

The total equipment cost of \$89,000 is funded through the Office of Naval Research. The

transmission fees are funded up to \$35,000 annually through the Army Medical Research.

With these systems, the library can now provide community education programs and continuing education courses for physicians, nurses and allied health providers. Some upcoming offerings are: diabetes education, developing capable people, and girl talk for community education, medical defense against biological and chemical weapons for physicians, and pain management courses for nurses.

Future offerings will include Sowela, McNeese, and LSU classes (must be arranged through the schools.) Other possibilities are intra-state industrial meetings, intra-parish agency meetings, support groups, and even participation in national "town hall" type conferences.

"With this equipment, even a rural parish like Cameron can participate in statewide or even

national events. The capabilities of this system open fantastic new options to our local people," said Library Director Charlotte Trosclair.

The tele-conferencing system is a two-way live video link between the teacher/presenter and each linked site. The students/participants can see the presenter and he/she can see them in real time. Participants can ask questions just as though the presenter was in the room.

In the future, educators predict many, if not most, college courses will be available through tele-conferencing, or distance education. Entire college degrees may be earned with little or no time spent on the actual campus. A number of LSU courses are already available at McNeese in this way. The system in place at the library will bring this capability to all of Cameron Parish.

To sign up for courses, or to get more information, interested persons may call 775-5421.

# Creole Trail named to 'most endangered' list

Scenic America, the only national nonprofit organization dedicated solely to preserving the natural beauty and distinctive character of America's communities and countryside, today named the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road one of the nation's ten most threatened scenic landscapes.

Saltwater intrusion and coastal erosion threaten to completely transform the natural beauty, ecology and economic importance of the Creole Nature Trail, which is located in Southwest Louisiana. Current restoration and preservation projects will prevent only one-fourth of the land loss that is projected to occur over the next 50 years. If left unchecked, the Gulf of Mexico could potentially advance inland more than 30 miles by the year 2050.

Affectionately known as Louisiana's Outback, the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road is a 180-mile loop through the bayous, marshlands and Gulf beaches of Southwest Louisiana. An amazing blend of man and nature, the route offers a unique opportunity to view Louisiana's fertile prairies and abundant wildlife.

Oak cheniers, which are found in only four locations

worldwide, and world-class bird and alligator populations make the byway a natural wonder; and top-notch fishing, hunting, crabbing, boating, nature photography and other outdoor opportunities distinguish the region as a recreational paradise.

At risk from coastal erosion and saltwater intrusion is the wintering habitat for more than 5 million migratory waterfowl; a year-round habitat for many endangered and threatened species of animals; the nutrient-rich waters and soils along Louisiana's coastline essential for sustaining as much as 16% of the nation's fisheries harvest; and a natural, first line defense against the devastation of hurricanes, high tides and heavy rains.

"A number of breakwater techniques, water-control systems, moist soil and vegetation management projects, and prescribed burning techniques are currently being used to control intrusion and coastal erosion," said Monte Hurley, chairman of the Creole Nature Trail Scenic Byway District, the governing body for Louisiana's only All-American Road. "While these programs are able to address some of the problems, time, a

lack of funds and the challenge of resolving conflicting coastal uses are major obstacles to halting the devastation.

This year's Last Chance Landscapes are:

Creole Nature Trail National Scenic Byway, Louisiana State Highway 99 Corridor, San Joaquin Valley, California Gaviota Coast, California Jordan River Conservation Corridor, Utah Historic Towns of Concord, Lexington, Lincoln and Bedford, Massachusetts Schuylkill Marsh, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Middle Potomac Scenic Corridor, Maryland and Washington, D.C

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## Hackberry Kindergarten registration

Registration for children entering Hackberry High School Kindergarten next fall will be held Thursday, Mar. 6 at 10 a.m. in the school library.

Children entering kindergarten for the 2003-04 session must have been born on or before Sept. 30, 1998.

Parents who plan to register children must bring a certified copy of a birth certificate, social security card, immunization record and proof of residence to the registration. Parents who do not yet have these records should begin now to secure them.

Mrs. Laurie Jones, Cameron Parish School Nurse, will attend the registration to talk with parents about immunizations now required by law before a child begins school.

It is not necessary that the child you are registering be brought to school on the day of registration.

## Sellers is on McNeese spring court

Alyssa Sellers of Cameron, a senior at McNeese State University, will be presented as a member of the 2003 Spring Court at the McNeese-Nichols State basketball game Thursday, Feb. 27.

Sellers, daughter of Cyndi and Paul Sellers, is a mass communication major. She is executive editor of the Contraband, assistant editor of the Log, vice president of Lambda Pi Eta, historian of Circle K, SGA senator, resident assistant and reporter for Epsilon Alpha Epsilon. She is a member of SUB, Baptist Collegiate Ministry, International Student Association, Lunatics, president's honor list, honor roll and Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

She has received a residential scholarship, Board of Supervisors Scholarship and the Erbon and Marie Wise Scholarship.

## H'berry girls advance in playoffs

The #1 ranked Hackberry Lady Mustangs continued their quest for their second straight championship as they knocked off Reeves in the bi-district round and then hammered Starks in the regionals.

In the bi-district game, Hackberry was led by Meagan Broussard, who scored a game high 22 points. She also had 12 rebounds. Edie Leonards added 12 points and Tobie Devall chipped in 10.

Starks had a 15-0 lead for all of 26 seconds at the beginning of the regional match-up, but Hackberry came on strong and never looked back. Tobie Devall scored 20 points to lead the Lady Mustangs and Meagan Broussard chipped in 14 points and Edie Leonards had 12 points.

Hackberry will face the winner of the St. Joseph/Chataignier game today.

## Lady Rebs eliminated

The Johnson Bayou Lady Rebels, the wildcard from district 10-C, fell to the Singer Lady Hornets in the bi-district round of the playoffs. Shai Greer and Megan Roberts scored 8 points each for JBHS. Kayla Barrentine added 6 points. The Lady Rebels finish the season at 5-24.



PICTURED AT a ceremony at Holly Beach Monday announcing that the Creole Nature Trail has been named one of the ten endangered American landscapes were from left: Sammy Faulk, vice chairman, Cameron Parish Tourism Commission; Dwight Landreneau, assistant secretary of La. State Parks; Monte Hurley, chairman Creole Nature Trail All-American Road; Shelley Johnson, director Southwest La. Convention and Visitor's Bureau; and Ty Bromell, La. State Scenic Byway Co-ordinator. (Photo by Rodney Guilbeaux.)