

GOV. KATHLEEN BLANCO greets and encourages Americorps members who are working in Cameron Parish. Members sign up for 10 months of intensive service, putting in five weeks in each area of need. This team is based in Denver, Col. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Blanco, legislators tour parish Friday

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

"Heartbreaking" is how Speaker of the Louisiana House of Representatives Joe Salter described his impression of Cameron Parish six months after Hurricane Rita.

He and some two dozen other Louisiana legislators, accompanied by numerous staffers and media representatives, traveled through the parish last Friday on a bus tour organized by Gov. Kathleen Blanco.

Salter, who is from Sabine Parish, had flown over Cameron Parish immediately after the storm, and visited at the court house with the Louisiana Recovery Authority, but had never seen the devastation in the outlying area.

The governor said she was "so proud of this area" for taking the lessons of Katrina and Audrey seriously and protecting themselves first so that they can now come back to rebuild.

Ferry back in full operation

The Cameron ferry has returned to full operations as of Saturday, April 1.

The ferry schedule will be in service 24 hours per day, seven days a week.

Broussard named Ward 1 J. of Peace

Carrie Broussard was elected Ward 1 justice of the peace here Saturday.

She will succeed Willie Mae Gary, whose resignation forced the special election.

Broussard, got 97 votes, or 84 percent. Cecil W. Clark, got 18 votes, or 16 percent.

Ward 1 includes Klondike, Lowery and east Grand Chenier.

She said this tour brings a lot of national media and lawmakers who would not otherwise have seen the devastation here.

One such lawmaker was Rep. Billy Montgomery, of Bossier, who said he was happy to be able to make the trip. He said it was his duty to see the situation for himself. "If we vote on it, we ought to see it," he said. "We have to vote for the whole state, not just the people who elected us."

Several new Orleans area legislators were on the tour, and noted that while people in that city still had buildings to work with, most of Cameron's structures are just gone.

The tour began in Lake Charles, passing through Hackberry, with a stop in Holly Beach before alighting in Cameron for a boiled shrimp lunch and presentations from Parish Administrator Tina Horn, EOC Director Clifton Hebert, and Parish Planner Ernie Broussard.

The many parish officials and some local residents on hand also had plenty of opportunity to meet the legislators and give them an idea of the needs of the parish.

The tour then continued east through Vermilion Parish before returning to Baton Rouge.

Easter Week Schedule

The Easter Week schedule for the Hackberry and Holly Beach Catholic Churches have been announced as follows:

St. Peter's Church, Hackberry - Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, Mass at 8:30 a.m. Saturday Mass at 4 p.m. and Sunday Mass at 9 a.m.

Our Lady of Assumption, Johnson Bayou-Sunday, April 16 a 11 a.m.

Port dispute is aired on Public Radio

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

The ongoing jurisdictional dispute between the West Cameron Port and the Lake Charles Port received national attention Monday when National Public Radio broadcast a story about the conflict.

NPR's Jeff Brady was in Cameron last week, interviewing local residents and officials. Alvin Hebert was heard stacking cement blocks on his property, talking about the health benefits of manual clean-up.

Referring to the Semptra LNG facility being built in Hackberry, Brady said the parish's recovery could be helped by taxes on the new industry, but such funds will be unavailable.

Carl Broussard was quoted, as a private citizen, explaining the situation with the Lake Charles Port, and Ronald Nunez spoke about the parish being hit when it is down.

The entire story can be heard as broadcast on the website www.npr.org, the story title is Louisiana Parishes Fight over LNG Plant Profits.

Hackberry FFA given \$500 gift

The Hackberry High School FFA Chapter recently received a \$500 donation from the Dadeville R-II School in Dadeville, Missouri.

Katie Seale, chairman of the Dadeville FFA Community Committee wrote that her committee started fundraisers months ago to help a FFA Chapter affected by the hurricane.

"Our chapter hopes that this money will help you in getting your chapter back on its feet," she wrote.

She also enclosed a picture of the Dadeville FFA.

Business opens again

Bobby and Phyllis Doxey have announced that their business, Southern Screen Printing, is back in operation in Cameron and Grand Lake.

They offer screen printing for T-shirts, caps, jackets, signs, uniforms, advertising promotions, etc.

Please call them at 905-5598 or 515-1532 if you have screen printing needs.

Grand Chenier Egg Hunt set

The Grand Chenier Knights of Columbus will hold their annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 16 at St. Eugene Church after the 10 a.m. Mass. Lunch will also be served. Everyone is invited to attend.



THE 38TH JUDICIAL District Court resumed operations in the Cameron Courthouse this week. Shown on the first day of court since Hurricane Rita are (back row, from left) Judge H. Ward Fontenot, public defender Penelope Richard; District Attorney Cecil Sanner; Assistant D. A. Tom Barrett; (front row) court reporter Carrie Northcutt and minutes clerk Delaine Theriot. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Court resumed in Cameron

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

Tuesday April 4, was the first day of court in the Cameron Court House since Hurricane Rita as Judge H. Ward Fontenot returned the 38th Judicial district court proceedings to Cameron this week after a six month

absence.

Fontenot, who was first sworn into office in the historic courtroom, opened the session by saying "The bailiff announced that Judge Fontenot is presiding, and Judge Fontenot is happy to be back in Cameron."

It was a short day with a

small number of arraignments, motions, and pleas. A number of bench warrants were issued for defendants who failed to appear. Some may not have known about the return to Cameron, even though the phone message all participants are to call clearly stated the change.

Hebert hired as full time Emergency Prep. Director

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

With the beginning of the 2006 hurricane season fast approaching, the Cameron Parish Police Jury has hired Clifton Hebert as full-time Office of Emergency Preparedness Director.

Hebert is presently the director of the Emergency Operations Center. That position is renewed on a monthly basis, and the OEP job will take effect on May 1 when his current contract ends.

The current OEP director, Freddie Richard, has said he cannot work full-time for the office, but encouraged the Jury to go to a full-time director for the parish to have the best protection in case of emergency.

The jury addressed several post-hurricane issues at its regular monthly meeting, held Monday evening in Hackberry.

Housing is a major concern with so many residents of lower Cameron Parish displaced. The long-awaited FEMA advisory elevation maps have now been released, and the jury voted to adopt them for current recovery building actions.

In order for parish residents to qualify for federal hazard mitigation grants or Louisiana Recovery Authority funds, the parish must adopt the advisory guidelines, according to Parish Administrator Tina Horn.

Site closed for weekend

The Creole supply distribution site will be closed this weekend, Fri. - Sun., due to supply delays. The EOC hopes to have the site back in operation next weekend. Call Julie Burleigh at 775-7770 for more information.

Hackberry Juror Steve Trahan said "For those who do have a structure left and need it elevated, this is the only way to get help."

Parish Planner Ernie Broussard assured the panel that adopting the advisory maps would not affect negotiations on the final elevation maps. Public input will be sought as the process moves forward. Preliminary maps are due out in August.

BUILDING CODES

FEMA has set the boundaries for wind resistance zones for construction in Cameron Parish. One mile inland from the Gulf of Mexico is designated as a Coastal Buffer Zone. In this zone windows must be manufactured to a high level of wind resistance, provided with hurricane shutters, or have pre-cut plywood covers on hand at all times.

North of the buffer zone to about the Intracoastal Waterway, structures must be built to withstand 125 mph winds; north of that line, 110 mph. The International Building Code adopted by the state and required in all parishes will determine specific construction rules.

The parish will have to hire at least one building inspector to enforce the new building codes. Horn said Calcasieu Parish will let Cameron Parish use their inspectors until a qualified person, or persons, can be hired.

She said each new structure will need four building inspections, four electrical inspections, and beginning in 2007 two plumbing inspections. The need for inspectors will probably increase in the summer, when school lets out and people begin construction, she said.

Public awareness meetings are still being arranged to familiarize the public with the

MOBILE HOMES

One area which needs awareness now is the requirements for mobile homes. Since the beginning of March, mobile homes are under building code requirements just like regular buildings.

Throughout Cameron Parish, all mobile homes brought into the parish must be rated at Zone 2 or higher construction. Anyone planning to purchase a used mobile home should contact the parish permit office for information before buying.

At least one family has had to remove a substandard mobile home, said Horn. Most mobile home dealerships will advise buyers about the codes.

The high volume of permit applications for new construction, RV placement, etc., has led to a need to have a permit office in three parts of the parish. There is an office in Hackberry, Grand Lake, and Cameron. For information, call 775-5718.

GRAND LAKE WATER

Projects are in the works to provide water to the Grand Lake community, where many southeast Cameron Parish citizens have taken up permanent or temporary residence.

The Jury voted to apply for supplemental Community development Block Grant funds to ease the strain on the water system.

This CDBG program is not the same as the regular CDBG program which had granted the Holly Beach Sewer System funds. The deadline for applying for a new sewer grant was Feb. 1, jurors were told, but they could not do so because at the time there was no one living in Holly Beach.

The system is not eligible for disaster recovery funds either, because it had not yet been built when the storm hit.



THE VIEW FROM the Cameron Courthouse windows is much neater than it was six months ago. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



A CULINARY GROUP has been visiting in Lake Charles this past week hosted by area Rotary Clubs. The group toured the Creole Nature Trail and viewed the wrath of Hurricane Rita with Capt. Sammie Faulk as their guide.



SPEAKER OF THE Louisiana House of Representatives Joe Salter shares his views with Asst. District Attorney Tom Barrett during the governor's bus tour last Friday. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



GOV. KATHLEEN BLANCO led a tour for state legislators through Cameron Parish last Friday, here shown discussing needs with Tom Henning of the Louisiana Recovery Authority. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



SEN. WILLIE MOUNT, Louisiana Recovery Authority member Tom Henning, and Gov. Kathleen Blanco listen as James Ducote explains the needs in Cameron Parish. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Where are they now?

By NELL COLLIGAN

Marie Thornton phoned this week from her home in Monterey, La. (Monterey is about 30 miles west of Natchez.) She called to inquire whether I could tell her if the Cameron Parish Library was accepting books to stock the bookmobile and the future library. A friend of Marie's, Ruth Magouirk of Angleton, Tex., was downsizing and had several boxes of books from a lifetime of collecting. Ruth wanted the Cameron Library system to have them. I relayed this information on to Charlotte Trosclair, the Cameron Parish Librarian.

Marie moved to Monterey from her home in Monkey Island thirteen years ago. Her

daughter, Kathy and husband, James Adams live next door. When the evacuation order came for Rita, Marie opened her home to friends and relatives from the Cameron area.

"By the time the storm was over, we had 39 people in my house," Marie claims. "June Lancon and her daughter, Debra were with us as well as my brother, Benny Bourque, Larry Kershaw, and Chris LeBoeuf, just to name a few. Since the storm, I think June has settled somewhere between Lafayette and Opelousas."

It would be interesting to know what was the largest number of evacuees housed under one roof during the storm. Angie Clement, here in Lafayette, had 20 relatives,

Harley group to make ride

Lake Charles Harley Owners Group will host their annual M.D.A. Ride on Sat., Apr. 29.

Registration forms are available on line at www.lchog.com. Owners of all types of motorcycles are welcome. Proceeds will benefit Muscular Dystrophy Association.

but Marie almost doubled that. Just imagine all the stories that could come out of those hundreds of homes, filled to the rafters with kin folks!

Incidentally, my daughter, Elaine, who evacuated from New Orleans for Hurricane Katrina, moved back into her home in late January. She plans to spend the three-day Easter holiday trying to make her yard begin to look like a yard again. I'm sure, for most of you, doing anything about a yard is still at the bottom of your "To-Do List."

That's it for this week. You may send your news to: 302 Trailwood Lane; Lafayette, La. 70508. Phone: 337-988-5395. mnadec67@aol.com.

IRS postponement told

(AMERICAN PRESS)

The IRS is providing special help for those directly affected by Hurricane Rita. The Internal Revenue Service will automatically postpone filing and payment deadlines until Aug. 28 for Cameron residents.

Taxpayers in Cameron, Calcasieu or Jeff Davis parishes with Hurricane Rita property damage can deduct 50 percent of costs paid or incurred from Aug. 28, 2005, to Dec. 31, 2007, for the removal of debris or demolition of structures.

For 2005 and 2006, taxpayers can claim an additional exemption of \$500 for each Hurricane Katrina-displaced person they put up at their homes for at least 60 consecutive days.

The maximum amount a taxpayer can claim is \$2,000. Taxpayers don't qualify if they received compensation from any source for housing costs - rent, heat, electricity - used by the displaced resident.

Other important tax-filing

tips:

*Disaster assistance can't be taxed as income if it was spent for necessary personal, medical, dental, family, living or funeral expenses. Assistance in repairing or replacing your home or its contents won't be taxed as income.

*Disaster relief payments from the government or donations from charitable organizations won't affect eligibility for individual federal or state benefits such as Social Security, Medicare, food stamps and welfare assistance.

For more information, call 1-866-652-5227 or visit www.irs.gov.

Services set

First Baptist Church of Cameron announces that worship services will be held at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday in the tent at 110 School St. Work days will be announced soon.

Come join us at the Louisiana Railroad Days Festival this weekend in DeQuincy

-The CAMERON PARISH PILOT- (USPS 086-980)

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Grand Lake High School softball roundup

Grand Lake High School softball team participated in the St. Louis Tournament on March 25. Their tournament record was 2-0-1; the Lady Hornets left the tournament with a record of 9-5-1.

Grand Lake 4, Sam Houston JV 2 - C'Rissa Morales (1-0) pitched the win for the Lady Hornets.

Top hitters for Grand Lake were Haley Pesson (1/2), Tressa Theriot (1/2), Brittany Hebert (1/2), Elizabeth Reon (1/2), Marlene Lavergne (1/2, 1 RBI).

Grand Lake 5, Iowa 4 - Lakeyn Duhon (8-5) struck out 7 in her start for the Lady Hornets. Grand Lake's top hitters were Lakeyn Duhon (2/3, HR), Marlene Lavergne (1/2), Sonya Lavergne (1/2), and Maggie Fruge (1/3).

Grand Lake 1, St. Louis

1 - Laken Duhon (9-5) pitched in the tie ball game. Maggie Fruge scored a run as a result of a sacrifice bunt by Tressa Theriot.

DISTRICT 7-B GAMES

Grand Lake 6, Fairview 0 - Lakeyn Duhon (9-5-1) pitched a perfect game until the 7th inning (1BB), but still had a no-hitter in the win over Fairview.

Top hitters for Grand Lake were Brandy Carroll (2/4), Tressa Theriot (1/4, 2RBIs), Brittany Hebert (1/3, 2RBIs), C'Rissa Morales (1/3, 1RBI).

Grand Lake 15, Lacassine 0 - Lakeyn Duhon (10-5-1) pitched a no-hitter (2BB) and struck out 8 in the 3-inning game. Grand Lake had 15 different players reach the bases.

Top hitters were Haley Pesson (1/1), Maggie Fruge (1/2), Amber Trahan (1/1), Lacey Broussard (1/1), Marlene Lavergne (1/2), Elizabeth Reon (1/2), Sonya Lavergne (1/2).

Grand Lake 15, Bell City 0 - Lakeyn Duhon (11-5-1) pitched a no-hitter (2BB) and struck out 8 in the 3-inning game. Grand Lake had 15 different players reach the bases. Top hitters were Brandy Carroll (1/3, HR), Lakeyn Duhon (1/3), Haley Pesson (1/2), Halie Cooper (1/1), Tressa Theriot (1/2), Marlene Lavergne (1/2), C'Rissa Morales (1/1, 2B), Sonya Lavergne (2/2).

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FIRST BAPTIST Church of Cameron held its first service in their new tent on Sunday. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

SCHS News

4 - H NEWS

Any 4-H member interested in the 4-H horse show needs to get a registration form from Mrs. Janna Kay.

Strawberry pick up will be April 12 from 4-6 p.m. at the Calcasieu LSU AgCenter or Hackberry High School.

SOPHOMORE NEWS

The Sophomore class are selling chances for an Easter basket. The drawing will be on Wednesday, April 12.

FBLA NEWS

Help support FBLA by participating in Jean/Hat Day on Tuesday, April 11. It will cost \$1 each to wear jeans and/or a hat.

Congratulations to Meagan Trahan for placing 10th in Accounting II at the State FLBA Conference on March 26 and 27. And FBLA would like to thank Mrs. Debbie Heard and Mrs. Carlotta Savoie for help in driving our students to the state conference.

JR SR PROM NEWS

South Cameron High Jr. Sr. Prom will be held on April 29 from 8 - 12 p.m. at Treasures of Marilyn in Lake Charles. Students will not be allowed to have walking canes or confetti in the building.

Pictures will be taken by Photography by Jennifer and the music will be provided by Deep South Productions. If anyone would like to make donations for door prizes, please contact Mrs. Booth and Mrs. Janna Kay at 905-2231.

EASTER HOLIDAY

Easter Holiday will begin at noon on Wednesday, April 12. Students are to return to school on Wednesday, April 19.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

April 6 - Softball game

Merryville (away) 4 p.m.

April 7 - Baseball game

Merryville (away) 4 p.m. Welsh

Track Meet.

April 8 - ACT Test.

April 10 - Baseball game

Oberlin (home) 4 p.m.

April 11 - Softball game

Oberlin at OD Johnson 4

p.m. (Senior Night).

April 13 - Baseball game

Hamilton Christian (away) 4

p.m.

April 17 - Easter Holiday.

April 18 - Easter Holiday.

April 19 - Return to School.

4-H shooting event Saturday

On Saturday, April 8, the Calcasieu 4-H Shooting Sports Club will host their Third Annual Sporting Clays Invitational along with youth shotgun, BB gun, and air rifle competitions. The event will be held at the Lake Charles Gun Club off of Ward Line Road south of Lake Charles. The competition is open to the general public.

There will be a 100 target sporting clays contest open to anyone. The cost is \$65 per person or \$260/team of four. The youth shotgun, BB gun, and air rifle contest are open to any youth between the ages of 9-19 and the cost is \$15 per person to shoot all events.

There will also be a silent auction from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Registration will include lunch and a concession is available also.

For more information call 475-8812 or download a flyer at www.lsuagcenter.com on the Calcasieu web site.

Girls are in track meet

RELAY RESULTS:

The South Cameron Lady Tarpons scored 71 points for a 3rd place finish at the Elton Indian Relays. Rachel Fountain was named the Outstanding Track performer and Christian McCall was named Outstanding field. Individual results were: Christian McCall, 2nd - javelin, 2nd - triple jump; Rachel Fountain, 1st - high jump, 1st - 400, 1st - 100 low hurdles, 1st - 300 low hurdles.

Grand Lake Lady Hornets finished 2nd at the Merryville Relays with 51 points. Individual results were: Haley Quinn, 2nd - shot put; Amber Taylor, 3rd - 100; Marlene Lavergne, 2nd - 100 low hurdles, 400 relay team-2nd

Baseball & Softball

BY CHRIS & LAURIE MUELLER

BASEBALL

Oberlin 11, South Cameron 8 - Thomas Troclair, Justin Picou, and Jordan Istre shared the mound for the Tarpons. Troclair had five k's during his stint on the hill.

Top hitters for the Tarpons (4-4) were Marcus Mudd, 2-5; Tyrell Harmon, 2-3; and Justin Picou, 2-2.

Glenora 16, Grand Lake 2 - Ryan Monceaux, Deon Bergeron, and Levi Stevenson threw for the Hornets.

Top hitters were Monceaux, 2-2 and Stevenson, 1-2 with a double. The Hornets drop to 8-6 on the year.

Merryville 4, South Cameron 2 - Thomas Troclair and Justin Powell pitched for the Tarpons.

Top hitters were Justin Trahan, 2-2 and a run; and Troclair, 1-3 with a run.

Starks 19, Johnson Bayou 3 - Keith Badon went the distance for the Rebels. He had the only Rebel hit with a homerun and RBI.

Hackberry 7, Singer 6 - Ian Blue and Nick Moore pitched for the Mustangs.

Top hitters were Blue, 3-4 and 2 RBIs; Jay Sanner, 1-4 and 2 RBIs; Nick Moore, 2-3 and 1 RBI; and Austin Moore, 1-2 and 1 RBI.

Singer had a 3-0 lead going into the bottom of the 4th when Hackberry scored 4 runs. Singer took a 5-4 lead after 5 innings, but Hackberry answered with 3 runs of their own.

SOFTBALL

Merryville 8, South Cameron 2 - Lakeyn Mock pitched for the Lady Tarpons (11-3, 3-2). Whitney Richard had the only Lady Tarpon base hit.



MR AND MRS. Martin (Terry) Kershaw of Hackberry announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Julie, to Jared Vincent, son of Leslie Vincent, Jr. and Betty Coleman, both of Sulphur. The wedding is set for Saturday, May 6 at 3 p.m. in the Hackberry Community Center.

Grand Lake 15, Lacassine 0 - Lakeyn Duhon went the distance striking out 6 in the no-hitter. Maggie Fruge led the Lady Hornet batters going 1-2 with a double. Grand Lake improves to

11-5-1 overall and 2-0 in district.

Starks 20, Johnson Bayou 0 - Chelsie Leger pitched for the Lady Rebels. JBHS had no base hits in the game.

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Cameron Parish Public Notice

Public Notice is hereby given that The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) per Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), intends to provide facility assistance to Cameron Parish and local governments, under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121-5206), as amended (Stafford Act); to eligible disaster victims and local governments and State agency applicants. An initial notice was published on November 7, 2005.

On August 29, 2005, the President declared a major disaster for Louisiana (FEMA-1603-DR-LA) due to damages from Hurricane Katrina. This authorizes FEMA to provide federal assistance through its Public Assistance Program in designated areas of Louisiana. A second Presidential disaster declaration was issued in response to damages from Hurricane Rita on September 24, 2005 (FEMA-1607-DR-LA).

This final notice concerns repairing and/or replacing public buildings (schools, hospitals, fire stations, sheriff offices, utilities offices, libraries, community centers, etc.), roads, utilities, drainage canals, and parks projects that would be located in the 100-year floodplain (areas that have been determined to have a one percent probability of flooding in any given year) in Cameron Parish.

Because portions of Cameron Parish are in the floodplain, relocation or replacement of buildings will be conducted using advisory base flood elevations, and/or other local codes and standards, to raise them out of the floodplain. Repairs may also utilize mitigation measures, where feasible, to reduce impacts to the floodplain. Advisory Base Flood Elevation Maps can be seen at our three permit offices: 110 Smith Circle, Cameron, LA 70631, 10800 Hwy. 385, Grand Lake, LA 70607, and 975 Main Street, Hackberry, LA 70645.

This constitutes final notice and Cameron Parish is accepting comments to its above determination. The public comment period will be 15 days from April 6, 2006 to April 20, 2006. Written comments can be faxed to (337) 775-5567 or hand delivered to the Cameron Parish Police Jury temporary office at 10800 Hwy. 385, Grand Lake, Louisiana 70607.

Run: April 6 & 13, 2006

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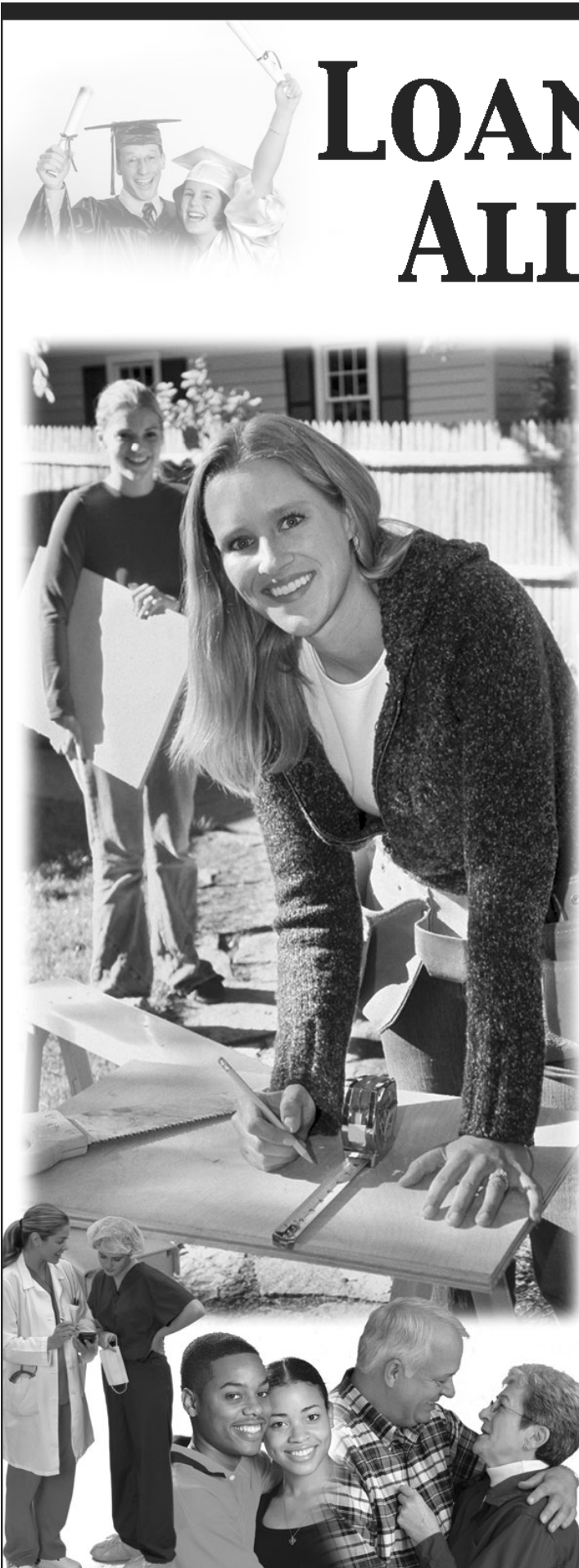
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GOV. KATHLEEN BLANCO is shown with the Denver, Col., based Americorps team designated Fire-6, now serving a five week assignment helping Cameron Parish's hurricane recovery. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Cameron Outdoors

By LOSTON MCEVERS



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

I had fixed my clocks around 6 p.m. Saturday. My wife had visited my son and his family in Toledo Bend; around 8 p.m. She decided she would forward the clocks. I awoke from the old recliner and stopped her, one hour is enough, but two hours, that's another story.

SNAPPER SEASON

April is moving along, spring's here, and anglers are hitting Calcasieu Lake for the large trout, while others are traveling to Sam Rayburn and Toledo Bend looking for the big bass. Some of us are targeting Lacassine Refuge Pool and doing quite well on large bass. Water is low, but a push-pole is the thing, quite good exercise while looking for the beds.

It's crawfish time, but snapper time is coming. Red snapper season opens April 21 and will end on Oct. 31. This is a very good eating fish and many anglers travel from afar to hit our Gulf coast to fish 30 plus miles offshore to catch the red scaled snappers. It is expected to be a great fishing season fishing for snapper, sometimes up to 100 feet deep. There's also mangrove snappers to catch. The first few weeks of the season, anglers will see red snappers in the 20 plus pounds, plus there's always amber jacks as well as Spanish mackerel and other offshore fish that'll hit your bait.

RECREATION FEES

It seems in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, our Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, are like everyone else. Lots of damages, licenses sales down, and they're looking for new ways to bring in enough money to stay afloat to keep up their employees, agents and do repairs. The budget is short over two million dollars. License sales are down, and that's the main source of their budget. Comparing 2004 with 2005, license sales are all down.

There's other talk about bonuses, tags for hunters to shoot more deer, which I think is wrong. If we're supposed to have only a certain number of tags per hunter per year, then we should all be the same and not let the

A skit called "The Reporter" was presented by Callie Cabell, Kathy Penny, Jimmy Sanner, Christine Powers and Jimmy Constance.

Cindy Nunez, Kathy Penny, Callie Cabell and Amy Broussard gave talks about 4-H.

Attending the Good Grooming Tea were Theresa and Christine Powers, Callie and Charles Cabell, Dorothy Walthers.

Theresa won a second place on her cookies and Callie a third on her deviled eggs at the Favorite Food Show. Christine also participated.

ROUNDOABOUT THE PARISH

Larry Duhon, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Duhon came home for a three-day visit. Larry is stationed at Elgin Field Air Base near Fort Walton, Fla.

The Jimmy Colligan and the Norman McCall families attended a family conge' (or fair) at the Academy of the Sacred Heart at Grand Coteau Sunday.

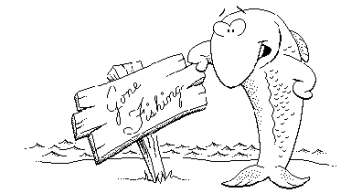
Neighbors help neighbors with daily tasks

Faith in Action is an inter-faith volunteer caregiving organization which helps neighbors with long-term health needs maintain their independence. It helps bring communities together by connecting volunteers with their neighbors in need. Each week, volunteers help their neighbors with small tasks, such as taking them to doctor appointments, helping with groceries or yard work, and running errands. The program is supported by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, which has helped to establish nearly 1,000 local sites since it began in 1984. To find a nearby program and to learn how to volunteer, call (877) 324-8411 toll free or visit www.faithinaction.org.

Well this could easily be a K & R boat, as over 50,000 boats have been damaged for the two hurricanes. Unlike automobiles that insurance companies total, they're labeled "Flood Damaged" and can not be sold even as parts, unless the buyer is told. But with boats or boat motors, they can resale, even resale parts, as unlike cars or trucks, boats only have a registration with Wildlife and Fisheries, but no title, so to follow its trail is very hard.

Remember if a boat goes underwater, damage will show up within six months, especially in electronics and wiring. Be sure you have boat trailer titles and boat registrations when you purchase, because the seller could be selling someone else's rig.

Who introduced "Daylight Savings Time?" Non-other than Ben Franklin in 1784 and it took 200 years for it to be accepted, only in some states.



LEMESCHE BASS CLUB

There were several anglers fishing the La. Oilmans Tournament last weekend on Toledo Bend. Danny Demary and Travis weighed in a two days catch of a little over 33 pounds. The winner had 40 plus pounds.

NEWS BRIEFS

Some of our Big Lake guides are very concerned about debris that is in the Calcasieu-Big Lake area, especially in the southern part of the lake. Officials have been contacted to help pick up sunken debris, but this could be a slow process. I sure hope we can get help, as we don't want to see any serious accidents on the lake. Be careful, look for warnings, wear your life vest, sit while traveling and the boat operator should have a kill switch.

HURRICANE BOATS

We all talk about don't buy any second hand cars or trucks now, you might get a Katrina or Rita saltwater job.

It Seems Just Like Yesterday

By Keith Hambrick



Cameron Pilot, April 5, 1973.

FEDERAL FUNDS LOST
One-third of the funds for a proposed watershed in Cameron Parish has been lost and the district is in danger of losing another \$1 million an official of the district said Friday.

E. J. Dronet, secretary of Gravity Drainage District No. 3, said he had received a letter from J. B. Earle, State Conservationist, telling of the cut.

Earle said his Washington office had advised that permits for levee and control structures No. 4, 5, and 6 may not be forthcoming in the immediate future. Washington has reallocated \$500,000 of the money which had been allocated.

The watershed area is bounded by the Mermentau River and Gulf of Mexico on the south, by Calcasieu Pass and Calcasieu Lake on the

west, by the Intracoastal Waterway on the north and on the east by Louisiana 27, Little Chenier Ridge and Little Chenier Canal.

WRECKER MATTER IS DISCUSSED

Cameron Parish's three wrecker owners aired their problems before the Police Jury Tuesday. Primarily they were concerned that the state police were calling Lake Charles wreckers to pick up car in Cameron Parish.

Wrecker owners present were John Portie, Cameron; V. P. Sanner, Hackberry; and Loston McEvers, Creole.

DRIVING COURSE HELD

A defensive driving course has been completed in Creole. Classes were sponsored by the Creole Homemakers Club and were held in the Oak Grove Baptist Church meeting room.

Eight one-hour sessions

were conducted by Louisiana State Police State Safety Officer John Prescott.

Prescott presented the following with certificates of appreciation from the National Safety Council: Mr. and Mrs. Harold Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Edras Nunez, Mr. and Mrs. Telsmar Bonsall, Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Mouton, Mr. and Mrs. P. H. Montie, Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Wicke, Rev. and Mrs. M. C. Kelly, Mrs. McArthur Rutherford, Karen Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Chester Kelly, Miss Patsy Granger, Mrs. Clifford Conner, Mrs. Ruby Rutherford, Mrs. Baron Thomas, Mrs. John M. Theriot, Mrs. Clifford Myers, Mrs. James W. Rutherford and Brandon Carter.

CLEAN-UP SLOGAN WINNERS

Marilyn Dyson of class 8-D at South Cameron High School won \$25 for her class with her entry, "Cameron would be clean, if you would help the scene."

Second place winner was Craig Boudreaux's "Cameron is the Best, so Pitch In and Clean the Mess." (9th grade.)

Third place, Jolie Primeaux's, "Do yourself a favor, Put in a little Labor." (12th grade.)

Honorable mention went to: Yvonne Mouton.

Special thanks is due Donald Broussard, school librarian, for officially conducting the contest on the school level. Also to the Cameron Homemakers Club members, Mrs. Wendell Murphy, Mrs. Tommy Watts and Mrs. Gilbert Mudd who collected and sorted the entries and did the preliminary judging and to the Cameron Jaycees for assisting with the final judging and for providing the \$25 prize for the winning class.

SC 4-H DRESS REVUE

Members of South Cameron Elementary and High School 4-H Clubs modeled outfits in various categories during the dress revue held at 4-H Exhibit Night recently.

Those modeling were Elementary 4-Hers, Diane Myers, Roxanne Myers, Ann Theriot, Mary Manuel, and Laura Threadgill.

HACKBERRY JR. 4-H

The monthly meeting of the Hackberry Jr. 4-H club was held March 27 in the school auditorium.

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— NOTICE —

Cameron Parish Registrar of Voters is now located in Grand Lake, LA. . .

Registrar of Voters
10088 Gulf Hwy., Grand Lake, LA

We are located two miles north of Boones Corner or one mile south of the Cal-Cam line.

Please come by to visit our new office. We will be open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Our new office number is 905-1167

WE ARE PROUD TO BE BACK IN CAMERON PARISH!
Suzanne Sturlese, Registrar
Michelle Richard, Chief Deputy

RUN: Mar. 30 & Apr. 5 (M-67)

*** ATTENTION ***

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The Cameron Pilot

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Letters to the Editor

Writer proud of Cameron

Dear Editor

On March 16, my sister, Kathryn, and I decided to drive down to lower Cameron Parish to see the destruction firsthand caused by Rita. Although I've been a subscriber to the Cameron Pilot for years and have remained updated through stories and pictures since the storm, nothing could have prepared me for what I saw that day.

I was in awe when I crossed over the bridge and saw entire houses, appliances and furniture littering the waters. My heart was broken when I drove up to the site where my brother, Wendell Wilkerson, and his family once lived.

I am still trying to imagine the pain that he must have felt when he realized that everything he owned was blown away. As I drove around the parish witnessing the demolition of my high school and the devastation to my elementary school, I realized how many of my friends from my youth were also affected the same way.

People always say that we should all feel blessed that Cameron Parish did not experience the significant loss of lives that occurred in Audrey. Although I agree and thank God for His protection, I know that the people who faced Rita feel like part of them died when they lost their memories. I pray for them every day.

Not only do I pray for them. I admire them more than they will ever know. I have worked in the mortgage servicing industry for nearly 20 years and I am very active in national groups that focus on preservation of properties secured by mortgages.

I have seen people in other areas sit back and wait for the government to help them. However, what I saw in Cameron Parish was so encouraging and truly remarkable (and I am proud to tell everyone about them).

The first person I saw when I turned into Creole was Susan Conner Boudreaux working on the site where her lumber company had once stood. Susan wasn't sitting in her FEMA trailer crying over the hurricane. She had a makeshift office set up and was in business. As I drove on, I saw people clearing their land and

helping neighbors do the same. Believe me, this is not the norm for many hurricane survivors.

I want the people of Cameron Parish to know how proud I am of them and to let them know that I will continue to pray for your recovery.

Caroline Wilkerson Reaves
Flower Mound, Tex.

Against fees for ACLU

Dear Editor:

I am a veteran and a member of Richard Bros. American Legion Post 176 in Cameron. I recently learned that judges have been granting the ACLU millions of dollars annually, at taxpayer expense, in lawsuits it has been filing under the Establishment Clause through the Civil Rights Attorney Fees Act, 42 U. S. Code Section 1988 in their attacks on the Boy Scouts, the public display of the Ten Commandments and other symbols of our American heritage, even at our veterans' memorials, for the first time in the long history of this great country.

I'm writing to express my opinion that it is an outrage that judges are giving the ACLU this money in attorney fees that taxpayers have to pay in these lawsuits. I have previously read about such lawsuits, but had no idea that I and other taxpayers were actually paying the ACLU to bring them about, through these attorney fee awards given by judges.

This is "taxation without representation," and we should put an end to it through passage of the Public Expression of Religion Act, H. R. 2679. I urge congressmen Charles W. Boustany, Jr., and David Vitter and all members of our community to support this reform. PERA is a necessary reform: It would withdraw the authority of judges to award attorney fees, at taxpayer-expense, to the ACLU, or anyone else, in Establishment Clause cases.

As a member of the American Legion family and of this community, I urge the Cameron Pilot and all members of the community to support PERA, and to contact our representatives in the House and Senate to urge them to sponsor PERA or to explain why they support judges in effect taxing us to pay the ACLU to bring these law-

suits.

We need every tax dollar we can get for our community; police, fire, health, and other needs, especially while we are trying to restructure our lives after all the recent disasters we've had. Judges are awarding thousands of dollars in attorney fees to the ACLU, at a reported \$350 per hour, without any proof that the ACLU has any actual attorney fees. If the ACLU must bring these lawsuits to destroy the Boy Scouts, Crosses and Stars of David, Christmas displays, it should at least have the decency to pay for it themselves and not stick it to the taxpayers.

The American Legion is calling on Congress to amend Title 42 U. S. Code, to withdraw the authority of judges to award attorney fees to the ACLU, or anyone else, in such lawsuits under the Establishment Clause. For more information and a copy of the petition for your signature, contact me.

Vernon Primeaux,
Commander,
Richard Bros.,
American Legion
Post 176, Cameron
802-6685(Cell)

Restrictions are deployed

Dear Editor:

Additional FEMA elevation restrictions were approved by the Cameron Parish Police Jury this week. The new maps are online at http://www.fema.gov/hazards/floods/recoverydata/rita_la_cameron.shtm

Once again, the freedom and choice of individual landowners to build on the ground has been sold out even more in exchange for empty promises of a few dollars. Freedom should not be for sale for any dollar amount.

The hollow promise of up to \$150,000 is a fantasy, just like the insurance company payouts. The funds will run dry and go to other parishes with much less or no damage, leaving Cameron Parish to fend for itself.

So sorry, too bad will be told to Cameron Parish residents. It's all just a sick joke on us. Dangle another golden carrot in front of the horse, and we will continue to sell out our freedom again, and again, and again. We need to see these golden carrots as false promises and selling out, forever giving up our choice and our freedoms.

How can people who want to rebuild afford the old and now the new, stricter elevation requirements? The reason why not is because of the high construction cost due to elevation restrictions. The shameful cold-hearted bureaucracy, restrictions, and red tape are more than enough to discourage anyone trying to rebuild.

Adding more restrictions is not constructive. Why am I the only person outraged that the freedom and the choice to build on the ground, especially with no regard for the elderly and handicapped, is sold out for false promises of a few hundred dollars.

Enough is enough, but elevation restrictions are still not over. FEMA has already promised stricter elevation restrictions in the next flood elevation maps due out later this year (May and October). Will we roll over and play dead as more elevation restrictions and regulations are handed down?

Yes, I am certain we will continue to do nothing to save our freedom, and eventually we will have no freedom left unless more than one person stands up now and declares enough is enough.

Get rid of all of the elevation restrictions and let the people rebuild the way they want to---by choice, with the freedom to choose how low or how high to build.

Speak up and speak out, or do nothing and continue to give up your freedom. Tell your elected officials what you think about more and more and more elevation restrictions.

The power is in the hands of the Police Jury. Everything has a price, but our freedom is not for sale. It's high time we



MEMBERS OF The Element, a church youth group from Columbus, Mo., got to meet Louisiana's governor, Kathleen Blanco (center,) while they were working in Cameron last Friday. The governor praised the youth for giving their time and energy to help others. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Dead birds collection announced

By JOSH HIGHTOWER
BIOLOGIST,
CAMERON PARISH
MOSQUITO CONTROL

Since the beginning of March, we have been collecting mosquito samples from traps placed in every community on a weekly basis and submitting them to the LSU arbo-virus laboratory for testing for West Nile, St. Louis Encephalitis, and Eastern Equine Encephalitis. So far all of our samples have tested negative for all three diseases.

Starting this year, we will also be responsible for collecting dead birds to be tested for West Nile from citizens of the parish. In the past the Health Unit picked them up. This year they will not be collecting them, so if you find one of the following species of birds that meet the following criteria call Josh Hightower at Mosquito Control to have your dead bird collected for testing. Our phone number is 905-5941.

The only three species that will be collected are:

1. Crows - 17 inch average body size, totally black plumage including beak and eyes.

2. Cardinals.

3. Blue Jays.

No other species will be tested by LSU, and we will not collect any other species. Although West Nile has been detected in other species, nearly all of them survive. Crows, cardinals, and blue jays are the species that are most likely to become ill and die from West Nile.

The other criteria are that the bird must be fresh with no decay, odor, or insects eating it. The bird should appear to have died from natural causes. It should not have any injuries such as being shot.

We will continue testing mosquitoes and dead birds through out the summer and into the early fall. We will also be larviciding septic ditches throughout the parish on a regular basis (The species that carries most of the mosquito born diseases breeds in septic ditches).

We will be spraying for mosquitoes on a regular basis, but the best protection from mosquito born diseases is to keep your yard free of water holding containers or empty them every three days, wear repellent or long protective clothing between dusk and dawn, and using insect screens that are in good shape on any windows left open.

Approximately 40% of horses that become infected with West Nile will die according to the CDC. It is very important that horse owners contact their veterinarians and get their horses vaccinated for West Nile and Eastern Equine Encephalitis.

stop selling out our freedom for a few hundred dollars.

Jay Rutherford
Creole Resident

Holly Beach situation

(BEAUMONT
ENTERPRISE)

Holly Beach, La. - Residents of this Cameron Parish beach community that thrived on tourism and retirees before Hurricane Rita destroyed the town say a state policy on household wastewater is stunting their recovery.

The state health code requires new subdivisions with more than 125 lots to build community sewer systems and that rule applies to Holly Beach because of the community's small lots and the high density of homes and camps.

The state Department of Health and Hospitals sent letters to residents saying they would be barred from rebuilding until a \$2 million community sewer system was built.

But a group of residents and state lawmakers convinced the state to issue a waiver allowing structures to be placed or built on lots 5,000 square feet or larger. Only one habitable structure with one individual sewer system can be placed on each lot.

"I just put in a brand new \$3,000 sewer system that's big enough for a four-bedroom, two-bath house, but yet I can only have one camper there," said Donald Pugh, a 50-year-old pokey boat pilot and one of the few residents to have returned. "There ain't but three of us who've got

electricity."

Owners of the tiny 1,500- and 2,500-square-foot lots common in Holly Beach are being forced to buy adjacent lots before they can rebuild or even install a travel trailer. They can also wait for the community sewer system that the DHH and parish have said they are pursuing.

In the meantime, Holly Beach is deserted.

Six people live on the beach in travel trailers. A handful of parish workers are staying north of the beach. Before the storm, there were about 150 permanent residents.

Eric Monceaux, a Crowley native who retired to Holly Beach and rented out a handful of beach camps, said the summer before Rita was his most successful season ever.

He is ready to start rebuilding but must wait first until his insurance mediation is complete and his property is surveyed and marked off.

Like many locals, Monceaux cleared his property himself instead of waiting for government contractors, who appear periodically and have yet to tackle debris on private property.

"We'll make it on our own," Monceaux said. "We don't need FEMA anymore."

Adversity has the effect of eliciting talents which, in prosperous circumstances, would have lain dormant. -Horace



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