The Cameron Parish
Pilot
35¢
April 27, 2006 Vol. 49--No. 29 Cameron, La. 70631

Jesse Knowles

Longtime legislator dies Sun.

Jesse Knowles, 86, of Lake Charles died Sunday, April 23, 2006 in a Lake Charles hospital. He represented Cameron Parish in the Louisiana Senate from 1964 to 1980.

Mr. Knowles was a native of Merryville, and had lived in Lake Charles for 71 years. He was a graduate of Lake Charles High School. He enlisted in the Army Air Corps in 1939. He served during World War II and was a survivor of the Bataan Death March. He was then a prisoner of war of the Japanese army, serving in a number of prison camps for more than three years. The majority of his time was spent in a prison camp in Mukden, Manchuria, until he was liberated on Aug. 15, 1945.

Mr. Knowles served 20 years in the state Legislature. He was a member of the House from 1960 to 1964 and served four terms in the state Senate from 1964 to 1980.

Knowles married the former Helen Noel of Abbeville in 1940, and was a member of First Baptist Church of Lake Charles.

Survivors include his wife.

His funeral will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, April 27, in First Baptist Church of Lake Charles. John White will officiate, with Mayor Randy Roach delivering the eulogy. Burial will be in St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church Cemetery in Abbeville following the service.

OUR LADY STAR of the Sea Catholic Church will hold its first mass since Hurricane Rita this Sunday, April 30, at 10 a.m. Monsignor Harry Greig will officiate. Parishioners are asked to bring their own chairs. Plans are underway to repair the church, which was damaged but not destroyed by the storm.
(Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

THESE YURTS (tents) make up Camp Cameron on Trosclair Road where volunteers from all over the nation are staying while they help with the cleanup and rebuilding of lower Cameron Parish. (Photo by Julie Burleigh.)

Volunteers come from all over to help Rita's cleanup

By JULIE BURLEIGH

British Columbia, upstate New York, California, Colorado, Michigan, Utah, Arkansas, Louisiana -- these are some of the places volunteers are coming from to assist in the clean up and rebuilding of Cameron Parish after Hurricane Rita. And they take up residence at Camp Cameron.

Shortly after the hurricane passed, the need for a base camp with basic life support (shelter, food, laundry and personal hygiene) was met by establishing Camp Cameron in the only possible site of any size, the recreation park on Trosclair Road. Over the 6.5 months the camp has been serving Cameron Parish it has been home to an evolving variety of residents, beginning with mostly first responder Louisiana Army National Guard, Alabama Army National guard, firefighters, EMS, DMAT, DMORT, National Incident Management Teams, the USACE, etc., transitioning to debris removal and demolition contractors and now mostly volunteers.

Camp housing is in "yurts" framed tents with floors modeled somewhat after the traditional homes of the Mongolian Steppes that are capable of withstanding quite a bit of weather, and with power and air conditioning. Hot showers, 24 hour laundry service, satellite internet and more good food than anybody should probably eat complete the basic amenities.

On Saturdays, massage therapists from Volunteers of America provide stress reduction. Evenings are likely to find firefighters, Americorps team members and other residents shooting some hoops, throwing some horseshoes or gathered around the fire pit. 300 hundred yards to the south, the beach on the Gulf of Mexico provides good running, birdwatching, shell gathering.

William Escoffery, M.D., who is the current physician at the onsite Federal Occupational Health facility says he came to Camp Cameron by accident for two weekends and decided to get back here for the longest tour he could. Says Escoffery "I've been to six camps for disaster relief and this is the best one--best food, best spirit, best people. Everyone is so friendly and helpful. The NCCC kids are awesome, local security, the stress relief massage, the ocean. It's great!"

Cont. on Page 8.

National Hurricane Museum discussed

By CYNDI SELLERS

The Hurricane Audrey Museum and Science Center project, for which many local residents gave input, has undergone some changes brought on by the twin disasters of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. It is now to be called the National Hurricane Museum and Science Center. The center will have three purposes: remembrance, education, and research.

According to a press release, the center "will highlight the resilient spirit of people affected by hurricanes nationwide, especially those along the Trail; and will showcase how the land, nature, and weather directly affect culture and livelihood along the Trail. (It) will also offer a glimpse into the science of these hurricanes, ... chronicle other U.S. locations hit by storms over the years ..., and will offer educational opportunities..."

Following the devastation of the two recent storms, the Creole Nature Trail Board of directors began to consider moving the concept of the museum toward a more national scope. In the last quarter of 2005 the board voted to expand the concept and asked the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Federal Highway Administration's Byways program to reallocate the previous grants toward that purpose and also for repairs to the Trail. In December the requests were granted.

Moving ahead with the project, the board has selected a design team for the center. Out of fourteen world-class firms that submitted proposals, the Southwest Louisiana Design Team, consisting of three Louisiana organizations and two firms from Ontario, Canada, were selected.

Cont. on Page 3

Grand Lake residents are warned about fire danger

By CYNDI SELLERS

A burn ban is again possible in the Grand Lake area if residents don't curtail their trash fires. Grand Lake Fire Board chairman Paul Wasson spoke to the Police Jury at the monthly agenda meeting to increase awareness of the problems with water pressure and the drought in the area.

"People are starting to use common sense," he said, but some people are still lighting fires too close to other dwellings, causing smoke damage and requiring firefighters to extinguish the fires. "Last time we filled a fire truck up we lost water pressure to two houses," he said. "The closest place for extra water is Burton Coliseum, eight miles from Boone's Corner. People need to realize we are in a water crisis." Paul Cox stressed that the water system is at maximum capacity; if the hydrants have to be used for a house fire, the water tower will empty in 45 minutes.

Juror Darryl Farque said "We are in a deep crisis with the water system. I am begging people to make phone calls and notify the fire department and water system about fires 48 hours in advance so they can prepare for them. If I have to I will come to this jury to put a burn ban back on. I do not want to put a control ban rule, but I will if I have to." The numbers to call are listed in a display ad elsewhere in this issue.

Parish Administrator Tina Horn asked people to also be aware of the health of their neighbors, especially elderly and children with asthma. "Smoke could kill them," she said. "Please notify them so they can leave for the day."

The Office of Motor Vehicles is looking for a way to re-open the Cameron office. Gail Hunt, Cameron DMV officer, and Terry Hunt, facilities manager for the OMV asked the Jury for help in complying with state law which requires an office in each parish.

"We are at your mercy right now," said Hunt. The OMV lost a number of locations in the New Orleans area and is still seeking funds from the legislature to rebuild. The two-day-a-week office in Cameron was located in the basement of the court house, which is still not useable.

Parish Engineer Lonnie Harper is preparing a bid package for repairs to the basement and has held pre-bid conferences with contractors. No bids were received on a new elevator for the building, so it will be re-advertised.

During a special voting meeting called prior to the agenda meeting, the Jury voted to advertise for a truck to be used by the parish economic development and planning department director Ernie Broussard.

Cont. on pg. 6

Fire Dept. volunteers are needed

F.E.M.A. fire protection is coming to an end and help is needed. Anyone 18 years or older living or working in Cameron Fire District #1 interested in becoming a volunteer fireman should contact Chief Johnson at 274-1837 or Lisa at 660-7174.

Meeting set

The South Cameron Rodeo Booster Club and the Cameron Riders Club will have a meeting Thursday, May 4, at 6 p.m. at the Grand Lake High School lunch room.

Store opens at G. Chenier

Mitchell and Pam Kelley have announced the opening of Kelley's Mart in Grand Chenier.

They have groceries, cold drinks, beer, ice, sandwiches, etc. Fuel is coming soon.

The phone number is 538-2604.

National Prayer Day set May 4

Cameron Parish's annual National Day of Prayer will be held at noon, Thursday, May 4 on the Cameron courthouse lawn. Everyone in the parish is invited.

Rev. Wayne Morris, pastor of the Sixth St. Baptist Church in Port Arthur will be the guest speaker.

Others on the program include Sheriff Theos Duhon, Mary Cockrell, Craig Thompson, Carl Broussard, Egar Wise, Rosie Glapion, Rev. Alton Hodnett, Rev. Lannis Joseph, Charles Cole and Louise Cole.

Refreshments will be served after the program.

(A more detailed program will be published in the Pilot next week.)

Filling of petroleum sites is halted by President

President Bush on Tuesday halted the filling of the nation's emergency oil reserve as a measure to reduce surging gasoline prices.

One of the facilities affected is the West Hackberry Storage facility in Cameron Parish which has a storage capacity of 219 million barrels and an inventory of 205 million barrels. The facility is almost "topped out" as it is.

A partial draw down of the reserves was done in 1991 during the Persian Gulf War.

The U. S. Dept. of Energy began development of the Hackberry site in 1977 and completed it in 1988.

The facility occupies 565 acres over the West Hackberry salt dome and has 22 underground solution-mined storage caverns.

Other storage sites are located at Bryan Mound and Big Hill, Texas and Bayou Choctaw, Weeks Island and the St. James Terminal in Louisiana.

April 27 is Take Our Sons and Daughters To Work Day

CAPITOL ONE BANK, formerly Hibernia, has moved a portable bank building into Cameron and hopes to be open by May 1. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

A BILLBOARD welcoming visitors to Cameron Parish has been placed near the Texas line by Cheniere LNG. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

FUNERALS

KAREN LYNN SISSON

Karen Lynn Sisson, 40, died Monday, April 24, 2006, in heer home.

She lived in the Sulphur area for two years, moving from Virginia. She was a member of First Baptist Church of Sulphur.

Survivors include her husband, Raymond Carlton Sisson of Sulphur; mother, Wilma Picou of Cameron; sisters, Faith Vallette of Sulphur and Gwen Kester of Maurice; brothers, Jerome Picou of Cameron and Jean Picou Jr. of Patterson.

Her funeral will be at 10 a.m. Thursday, April 27, in First Baptist Church of Sulphur. The Rev. David Holder will officiate.

RANDAL SCOTT LABOVE

Randal Scott LaBove, 38, died Saturday, April 22, 2006, in Sulphur.

He was a lifelong resident of Cameron and was a commercial crabber and fisherman. He was a member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church of Creole.

He is survived by his wife, Tara LaBove, daughters, Samantha, Mary and Aaliyah LaBove, father Wilton "W.A." LaBove and stepmother, Toulay, all of Cameron; grandmother, Ruby Smith of Vidor, Tex.; brother, Jared LaBove; sister, Lisa Guidry and stepsister, Kathy Brooks, all of Creole.

His funeral will be at 1 p.m. Thursday, April 27, from St. Patrick Chapel. The Rev. Joe McGrath will officiate. Burial will be in Sacred Heart Cemetery under the direction of Johnson Funeral Home.

2nd Annual Festival to be held Apr. 29

The second annual Cameron Parish Festival will be held Saturday, April 29 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Crain's Ranch at Johnson Bayou.

The festival is sponsored by the Cheniere Energy Company and will feature music, crawfish, hot dogs, hamburgers, cochon de lait, amusements for children and giveaways.

Barry Badon and the Bayou Boys will play from 1 to 2:30 p.m. and 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Deep South Productions will provide a D. J. beginning at 11 a.m. and during the intermission of the main band.

For more information call 569-2311.

Cheniere Energy is presently building the largest LNG receiving terminal in the United States on the Sabine River near Johnson Bayou. When completed the terminal will be able to transport 2.6 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas.

Class of 1986 to hold reunion

The South Cameron High School Class of 1986 is planning a 20-year reunion and needs to get in contact with members.

Please call 477-1325 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

Community coffee makes school grants

Community Coffee Company is expanded its 17-year-old Community Cash for Schools program to provide relief for hurricane-affected schools.

This year, in addition to more than $250,000 that schools will earn through the longstanding UPC-clipping program, Community is offering an additional $162,500 in the form of grants to schools that were closed for at least a minimum of two weeks due to hurricane damage. At a reception on April 26 in Lake Charles, schools in each area that applied for funding received their Restoration Fund checks.

Funding from these grants may be used by each school in any way it deems best, as examples--for anything from structural reparation to the purchase of new computers.

Community Coffee was founded in 1919 in Baton Rouge by Henry Norman "Cap" Saurage. Today, Community Coffee is still family owned and operated and is the largest family-owned retail coffee brand in America. Community Coffee products are available in Louisiana, Texas and the Southeast in grocery stores, offices, restaurants, hotels and convenience stores. Specialty quality Community Coffee can be found at CC's Coffee House locations in Baton Rouge, Lafayette and New Orleans as well as through CommunityCoffee.com. Community proudly roasts and packages its fine coffees locally, in Louisiana. For more information, visit CommunityCoffee.com, call 1-800-525-5583 or write Community Coffee Company, Post Office Box 791, Baton Rouge, LA 70821.

Notice from IRS may be in error

The Internal Revenue Service is making an effort to discontinue sending notices to taxpayers who qualified for automatic extensions due to Hurricane Katrina. However, some computer-generated notices are going out to taxpayers in affected areas.

Therefore, taxpayers from 31 parishes in Southern Louisiana eligible for extensions automatically or by self-identification may receive an automatically-generated notice when their return is not filed.

Taxpayers in the seven Louisiana parishes eligible for automatic extensions and those that have already self-identified with the IRS to receive the extensions to Aug. 28 may disregard the notice. If the taxpayer received a notice and has not yet self-identified, they should contact the IRS Disaster Assistance Hotline at 1-866-562-5227, which appears on the notice.

REPAIRS TO the First Baptist Church of Johnson Bayou are nearly complete, thanks to the help of many volunteers and the tireless efforts of retiring pastor Les Fogleman. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Local pastor is retiring April 30

By CYNDI SELLERS

Johnson Bayou Baptist Church pastor Rev. Les Fogleman is retiring. What is really significant about this is that he had planned to retire last October. A storm named Rita changed his plans.

When his town and church were severely damaged by the hurricane's floods and winds, Bro. Les was one of the first to return and begin cleanup. He was working alone, hauling debris out of the church with a wheelbarrow, in the first week after the storm. He said he just wanted to give people some hope. "If they see me working out here, maybe they will be encouraged to start over, too."

Soon he was able to get help from the National Guard and visiting firefighters. Then Istrouma Baptist Church in Baton Rouge connected him with volunteers from various churches who came to rebuild. Today, the church building is almost finished, and Bro. Les feels his job is almost finished, too.

This Sunday, April 30, will be his last at the church he has pastored for over a decade. After the 10 a.m. worship service, a dinner will be held in his honor in the church he has worked so diligently to rebuild.

Jo Griffith, a member, says that Bro. Les has spent probably 80% of is time since the storm at the church, he was hardly ever home. "When nothing else was being worked on, God's church was," she said. "It gave us hope. When members were dealing with homes and insurance, it was comforting."

Griffith says the entire effort has been for God's glory. "We've met people from everywhere. Good comes out of bad - one young man got saved while he was here."

Bro. Les said he just couldn't go ahead with his retirement plans after the storm. The people needed him. But now the task is completed, and he has earned a well-deserved rest.

Fifth Sunday singing to start again

The traditional Fifth Sunday Hymn Singing, which has for years been held on a rotating basis among several churches in eastern Cameron Parish, will begin again this Sunday. Sweetlake Methodist Church will host the event at 6 p.m., to be followed by a fellowship with refreshments.

Each participating church is invited to present two pieces of special music. For the rest of the program, audience members call out their favorite hymns for everyone to sing.

-The CAMERON PARISH PILOT-
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MEMBERS OF THE Creole Nature Trail board introduced the design team for the hurricane museum project at a meeting at Cameron Prairie Refuge Headquarters Tuesday evening. Pictured are: board members Sammie Faulk and Tina Horn; team members Paul Barbian, Oday LaVergne, Tony Reich, Alan Nursall, Jay Lynch, Jon Linton, and Tom Phillips; and. board president Montie Hurley. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

MUSEUM--Cont. from Pg. 1

The team, along with their winning design concept, was presented to the area at two meetings this week, one in Lake Charles and one at Cameron Prairie Refuge. Tony Reich, lead designer and team coordinator is a partner in the firm of Reich and Petch Design International, of Ontario and London. The firm's clients include the Smithsonian Institution, Royal Alberta Museum, Glasgow Science Museum, and the Nanjing Science Center.

Alan Nursall, of Science North Enterprises in Sudbury, Ontario, has a Master's degree in geography and meteorology and has worked on projects for the Science Museum of Minnesota, the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, and the California Science Center.

Paul Barbian is CEO of PiVod Technologies, offices in Alexandria, LA, and Melbourne Australia, which has had clients such as the Ontario Science Center, the King Abdul Aziz Historical Center (Riyadh, Saudi Arabia), and the Australian Centre for the Moving Image.

Jon Linton, of TCI Management Consultants, Ontario, will conduct market feasibility and economic impact research. His clients include world-wide tourism and cultural institutions.

Additionally, Alexandria, La., building architect Jon Lynch, landscape architect Pat Moore, and fund-raising consultant Oday Lavergne, Jr. will provide their expertise as the plans progress.

Those plans include concepts such as a hurricane hunter theater, with moving seats and a wrap-around screen to put the visitor inside the storm with the pilots; a hurricane lab with a water flume to let children conduct their own experiments with storm surge; a hurricane command center, which would track hurricane type weather worldwide in real time; a wind tunnel experience which would let visitors pretend to be a reporter in a storm; and a remembrance center for Hurricane Audrey and other significant storms.

The team toured Cameron Parish on Tuesday for the first time. Reich said they were "profoundly impacted" by what they saw. He said they now felt it was even more important to have this facility to educate people about the issues around hurricanes and their impacts on people, cultures, and the environment. He also said there will be no center like this anywhere in the United States.

The team's design concepts were based on input received from public meetings held last year. They plan to seek more input to refine their plans in the near future.

The site selection specialist, Tom Philips of the Moore Planning Group, will be searching for the best site along the Trail to accomplish the center's mission. That decision will be made within the next 60 days, hopefully. Since one of the center's purposes is to draw visitors into the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road, so they can see first-hand the nature and culture of SWLA, the team guarantees it will not be next to Interstate 10.

Nursall explained that there are studies that show how far people will travel off a major highway to get to a major attraction. The object is to get them onto the Trail and keep them there for additional experiences such as boat rides or nature tours, promoting a longer stay in the area.

S. Cameron High School News

SCHOARSHIPS

The following scholarship applications can be picked up in Mr. Broussard's office: VASTAR, Computer One and Lions Club. The VASTAR and Computer One scholarship are for students majoring in Science and Science related fields.

PROM NEWS

South Cameron Jr./Sr. Prom will be this Saturday, April 29 at Treasures of Marilyn in Lake Charles from 8 p.m. - 12 a.m. Pictures will begin at 7 p.m. Students will not be allowed to have walking canes or confetti in the building.

SOFTBALL NEWS

The Lady Tarpon Softball team will play at the State Fastpitch Tournament at Frasch Park in Sulphur. They will begin at 6 p.m. on Field 17.

COMMUNITY COFFEE LABELS

Parents may send their "Community Coffee" and "Box Tops for Education" labels to Ms. Carolyn Richard.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

April 28 - State Fastpitch Tournament - Lady Tarpons vs Ascension Catholic 6 p.m. - Field 17.

April 29 - SCHS Prom at Treasures of Marilyn, 8 p.m.

May 4 - State Track Meet - LSU Track.

School menus

Lunch menus for all Cameron Parish schools for the week beginning May 1 are as follows:

Monday, May 1 - Breaded chicken patty, lettuce cup, lima beans, fruit cocktail carrot cake, hamburger bun.

Tuesday, May 2 - Chicken fajitas, fixings cup, baked potato, banana bread squares, flour tortillas.

Wednesday, May 3 - Pizza w/ground beef, tossed salad, buttered corn, chilled peach slices.

Thursday, May 4 - Turkey roast, rice, broccoli and cheese, fresh fruit cup, brown gravy, cornbread.

Friday, May 5 - Baked ham, lettuce cup, green beans, applesauce cake, wheat sliced bread.

JOHN AND JANET Beauxis of Leesville announce the engagement and forthcoming marriage of their daughter, Brandy Higginbotham, to John Bourgeois, son of Joseph and Bonnie Bourgeois of Cameron. The wedding is set for Saturday, May 13, at St. Raphael's Catholic Church in Iowa at 2 p.m. A reception will follow at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Iowa. Through this means friends and relatives are invited to attend.

2006 rodeo cancelled

The South Cameron Rodeo Team would like to thank all the thoughtful people who donated money and purchased items during their bake sale Sunday, April 23.

Also thanks to Mike and Paula Chesson, Butch and Boone Hebert and Rev. Wayne at the Sweetlake Methodist Church for graciously allowing the team to use their facilities for the sale.

The 2006 rodeo scheduled for next weekend has been cancelled due to extensive arena damage sustained during Hurricane Rita.

Members are holding several fundraisers to assist them with the cost of attending the Louisiana Wrangler and High School Rodeo Finals in Gonzales in June of this year.

Rodeo members include Shaley Gossett, Kyle LeBoeuf, Shylyn Nunez, Garrett Richard, Barrett Hebert, Colby Nunez, Victoria Wilkerson, Jade Miller, Jolie Boudreaux, Lexie Canik, Taylor Canik, Trevor Nunez, Ross Rowland, Shawnee Pearce, and Ty Savoie.

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In 1994, Charles Walker played 306 simultaneous games of checkers at Dollywood in Tennessee-winning 300, losing one and drawing five.

On November 28, 1929, Ernie Nevers of the Chicago Cardinals celebrated Thanksgiving by scoring all 40 points (6 touchdowns, 4 points after) in the team's 40-6 win.

According to the International Game Fish Association, the heaviest fish ever caught was a 2,664-pound great white shark, caught by Alfred Dean in 1959.

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CARROLL'S Quik Stop has opened at the former Cam Tool location east of Cameron. Wade and Mary Carroll, owners, are shown with little Sydney Carroll,, and Lydia Miller (along with the Cameron Pilot newsrack).
(Photo by Douglas DeViney, Sr.)

Tarps place at meet

By CHRIS & LAURIE MUELLER

The South Cameron Tarpons competed in the district 5-1A track meet at Basile last week. Qualifying for the regional meet at New Iberia were Brandyn Carter, 1st - polevault; Chance Savoie, 3rd - pole vault.

The Lady Tarpons finished third behind Hamilton and Merryville.

Heading to the ladies regional are Christian McCall, 1st - javelin, 1st - long jump, 2nd - triple jump, 3rd - pole vault; D'Nae Desonier, 3rd - triple jump; Rachael Fountain, 4th - high jump; Haley McCall, 2nd - polevault, 1st - 100 low hurdles, 4th - 300 low hurdles.

THE PIT STOP store has opened on Marshall (Main) Street in Cameron. The owner is Ronnie Gayle Nunez. Several other stores have opened in recent weeks in lower Cameron as the parish comes back to life after Rita. (Photo by Douglas DeViney, Sr.)

Let Freedom Ring!

Lady Hornets take 2nd place at district track meet

By CHRIS & LAURIE MUELLER

The Grand Lake Lady Hornets scored 132 points to finish second at the district 5B meet last week. The boys team finished in fifth place.

Qualifiers for the regional meet to be held at Welsh are Tressa Theriot, 2nd - shot put; Haley Quinn, 3rd - shot put; Brittany Hebert, 3rd - discus, 4th - javelin; Meagan Miller, 4th - discus; Elizabeth Reon, 1st - javelin; Brittany Houston, 1st - long jump, 3rd - triple jump, 3rd - high jump; Lakeyn Duhon, 3rd - long jump;

Molly Precht, 4th - triple jump; Maggie Fruge, 4th - polevault, 3rd - 100 low hurdles; Amber Taylor, 1st - 100, 2nd - 200; Meagan Miller, 4th - 100; Hailey Cooper, 3rd - 200; Hailey Cooper, Amber Taylor, Meagan Miller, Marlene Lavergne, 1st - 400 relay; Lakeyn Duhon, Amber Taylor, Marlene Lavergne, Hailey Cooper, 1st - 800 relay.

Also, Deon Bergeron, 3rd - discus; Adam Precht, 1st - javelin; Ashton Boudreaux, 4th - long jump; Brett Griffith, 3rd - triple jump, 4th - high jump; Justin Howerton, 4th - pole vault, 4th - 800; Jayce Hebert, 3rd - 110 high hurdles; Kory Dahlan, 3rd - 300 high hurdles.

Kelley's Mart in Grand Chenier is now open. Owner Pam Kelley, left, and clerk Tammy Fountain welcome customers from 6 a.m. - 6 p.m.
(Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Hackberry to play Grand Isle

The Hackberry Mustangs, the district 7C champions, drew a bye in the first round of the class C baseball playoffs. They will travel to Grand Isle on May 2 for a regional match up. Grand Isle is the district 9C champions.

Grand Lake will host wildcard Negreet on Saturday in a bi-district game. The Hornets won their district while Negreet finished fourth in district 4 B.

Dance Line team formed for Grand Lake youngsters

By ANGIE DUBARD

Lil Hornets X-treme Dance Line Team is Grand Lake School's newest dance team. The girls, grades first through fifth, started learning dance routines they are looking forward to performing for their school and community at next year's school activities.

Grand Lake School already has a dance team for the middle school and high school students, but not for elementary students. Earlier this school year, the older dance line girls held a dance clinic fundraiser. The younger girls who attended the event had so much fun, and it was obvious that they wanted to somehow be a part of it all too. A dance team for the elementary girls was discussed, and with some organizing of three willing parents and a teacher advisor, has since been developed.

After just two practices, the Lil X-treme Dance Line Team are picking up steps and remembering routines. One look at their faces and it is apparent that they are having fun.

The X-treme Team had a successful fundraiser Saturday, April 8 at Boone's Corner, Grand Lake Discount, and Gaspard's. On Sunday the team went to Sweetlake Methodist Church. The community's generosity and support has been overwhelming, and the team wants to thank everyone for their contribution. The girls will be able to purchase uniforms and supplies with the money raised. They will wear the uniforms when they dance at next year's school functions.

According to the dance team leaders, Pam Gauthreaux, Angie Dubard, Tammy Benoit and Sarah Lavergne, the girls will be a supporting force in the school and community while enjoying being a dance line team. They want to wish Cameron Parish and surrounding neighbors blessings on continued relief efforts, and say thank you for everyone's generosity.

Lil X-treme Dance Line team members are Emily Babineaux, Faith Benoit, Laikyn Dubard, Lakyn Duhon, Mallory Dupuie, Emily Fontenot, Cameron Granger, Courtland Granger, Gabrielle Lavergne, Trinity Lee, Alexis Reeves, Allison Ross, Kaylee Thomas, Bethany Trahan.

The Teacher/Advisor is Pam Gauthreaux; assistant to Pam is Danah Landreneau, and sponsors/coaches are Angie Dubard, Tammy Benoit, Sarah Lavergne.

• NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC •

Cameron Parish Police Jury
Phone Numbers
are as follows:

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(337) 905-1197 (337) 905-1194
(337) 905-1193(fax) (337) 905-1191 (fax)

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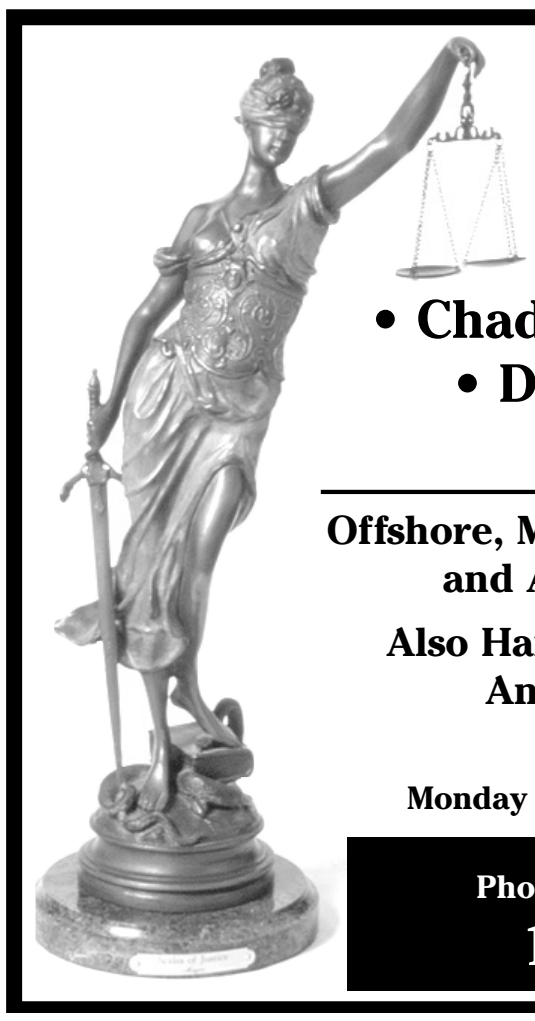

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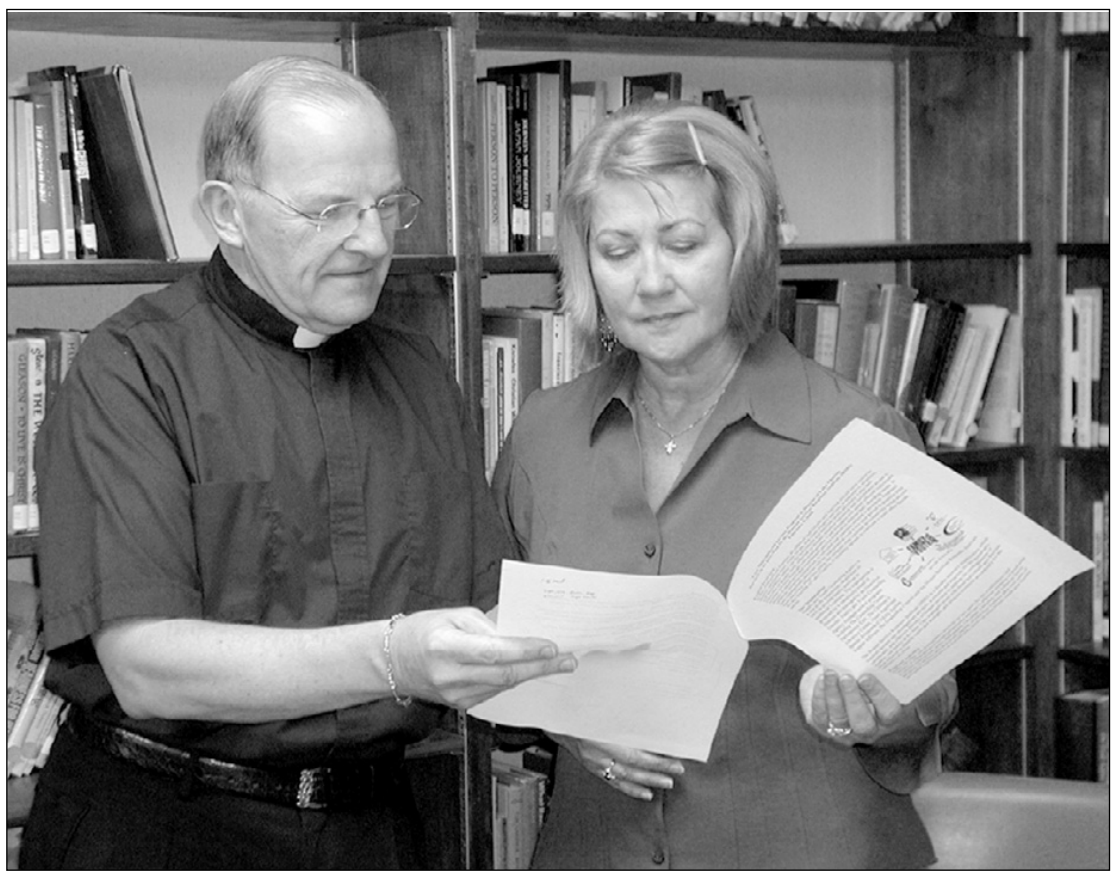
CATHOLIC CALENDAR.

A page devoted to local Catholic interests

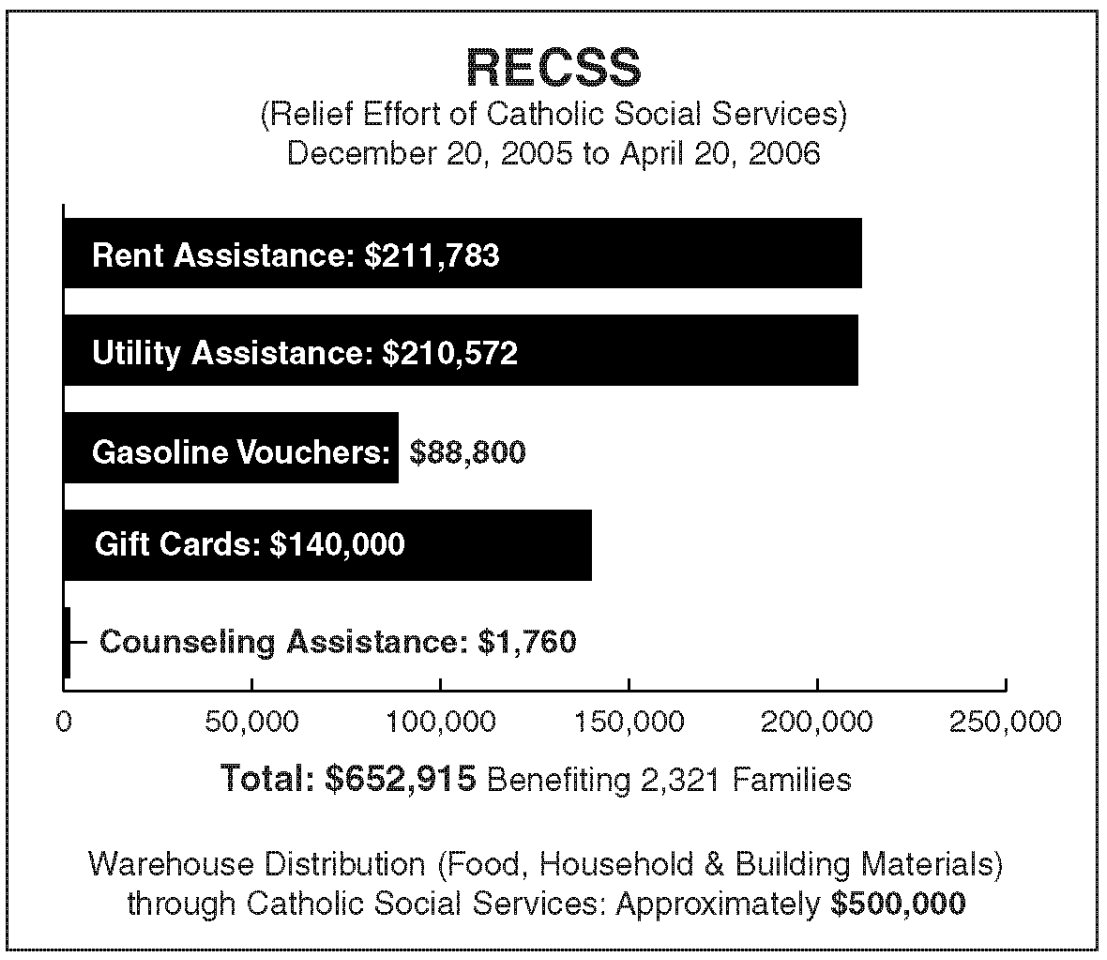
April 27, 2006

Vol. 32, No. 10

Internet Address: http://lcdiocese.org



In the photograph above, Monsignor Henry D. Greig, left, Administrator of the Diocese of Lake Charels, and Bernell Exell, program director of the Relief Effort of Catholic Social Services (RECSS) of the Diocese of Lake Charles, look over a report detailing the amount of aid provided by the program to those in need following Hurricane Rita. The program continues to give financial assistance to individuals and families who were affected by the storm. Below is a bar graph that indicates the amounts and areas of assistance provided by RECSS to those in need through April 20, 2006.



Louisiana Catholic bishops indentify five high priority bills in general session

BATON ROUGE - Louisiana's Catholic bishops have identified five bills concerning abortion, cloning, education, housing and the state's Tuition Opportunity Program for Students as "high-priority" legislation during the general session that runs through June 19, said Daniel J. Loar, executive director of the Louisiana Catholic Conference (LCC).

The bishops of the seven Louisiana dioceses, along with two auxiliary bishops, comprise the LCC, which is the public policy arm of the Catholic Church in Louisiana. New Orleans Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes is the chairman of the LCC board.

The bishops, who met April 6 in Baton Rouge, also are supporting bills concerning immigration rights, indigent defender funding, rules for charitable pharmacies and raising the state's minimum wage by $1 an hour.

Loar identified the following high-priority issues:

• Abortion: The bishops support Senate Bill 33 by Sen. Ben Nevers, D-Bogalusa, that would ban all abortions except in cases of saving the life of the mother. The bill was slated for its first hearing April 19.

"Some people may want to put in a 'rape or incest' clause," Loar said. "We revere all life, and we urge any woman who may be violated in that way to please put the baby up for adoption, because there are hundreds of couples who want to adopt."

Loar also said of the 40,000 abortions reported in Louisiana over the last three years, only one was recorded as the result of rape or incest.

"This does not seem to be a real issue," Loar said. "Our opponents are going to make us look like we're uncaring. But we do care. We don't want there to be two victims - the mother and the baby."

• Cloning: The bishops support a bill by Rep. Gary Beard, R-Baton Rouge, that would ban all embryonic stem cell research and oppose a bill by Sen. Donald Hines, D-Bunkie, that would ban reproductive cloning but allow research on cloned embryos. Both bills have been fought to a standstill over the last two years.

The bishops vigorously support SB 452 by Sen. Sharon Broome, D-Baton Rouge, that would make it illegal for women to sell their eggs, which would be used for "clone and kill" research.

"There are ads in college newspapers in which college women are offered $5,000 for their eggs," Loar said. "In order to stimulate the ovaries to produce the eggs, they have to use drugs that can cause fertility problems 10 years later. The intent of this bill is to cut off the supply of eggs for research."

• Education: The administration is attempting to cut drastically its funding to nonpublic schools for collecting and reporting detailed school statistics such as attendance, health records and teacher certification.

"The state is supposed to pay us for doing that, and right now we're getting only 50 cents on the dollar, and now they want to cut us more (to 25 percent funding)," Loar said. "The public schools get paid the full amount. This is unjust."

Loar said if Catholic schools have to raise tuition to cover these costs, it will drive more students into the public school system, which then will have to pick up the full cost of educating the student (about $7,000 a year in high school).

• Housing: The bishops are eager to support an array of bills that the administration is putting forward to replenish housing stock in the wake of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. "We want to do what we can as church to help replenish housing stock along the Gulf Coast," Loar said. Some public-private cooperative ventures will be examined.

• TOPS: The bishops oppose a bill by Rep. Wayne Waddell, R-Shreveport, that would require a high school student to take the Graduate Exit Exam in order to qualify for the TOPS college scholarship.

"We don't want to be forced to take state tests because we would have to change our curriculum, and who is going to pay for that?" Loar said.

Other issues of interest to the bishops are the following:

• Immigration: The bishops support a bill by Rep. Juan LaFonta, D-New Orleans, that would require a judge to advise an immigrant before he pleads guilty to a felony that doing so could lead to his deportation.

• Indigent defender funding: Loar said Louisiana is at the bottom of U.S. states in funding for its indigent defender program. "The funding relies on parking tickets and an unstable base of taxes," he said. "We're supporting a bill that would regularize and increase the funding for poor people who can't afford a lawyer."

• Charitable pharmacies: The Society of St. Vincent de Paul operates free pharmacies in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Houma-Thibodaux and Shreveport. A bill that would allow surplus medications to be distributed to these pharmacies is being amended so that the pharmacies would not be required to accept "objectionable items" such as birth control pills.

• Minimum wage increase: The bishops support a $1 increase in the hourly minimum wage to $6.15. "The minimum wage hasn't been raised in nine years," Loar said. "It's only fair."

Loar said individuals can keep track of bills that are of special interest by accessing the LCC Web site, www.louisiana.nasccd.org. The status of important bills will be updated regularly. There are also e-mail links to state senators and representatives and the governor. The site also includes the bishops' statement on "Approaching Death: The Moral Choices," with a model healthcare advanced directive for Catholics.

CHM APPEAL THIS WEEKEND

Committee on the Home Missions assists Diocese of Lake Charles

Whether it is Brownsville, Texas; or Biloxi, Mississippi, or Cheyenne, Wyoming; or Juneau, Alaska, or right here in the Diocese of Lake Charles, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's Committee on the Home Missions provides financial aid to a variety of programs and ministries. The Diocese of Lake Charles is one of more than 70 mission dioceses in the United States and its Caribbean and Pacific dependencies

This year's Home Mission Appeal is this weekend, April 29-30 here in the Diocese of Lake Charles. Consider how much we are helped by the gifts of others when you are asked to make your own contribution on Saturday and Sunday.

In Southwest Louisiana, the annual grant from the Committee, this year totaling $175,000, assists in five areas. Additionally, the Committee gave more than $3 million to Gulf Coast Dioceses in the wakes of hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Here in Lake Charles we received $300,000 in response to our devastating situation

The most extensive financial aid in our diocese is the support of parishes and mission chapels with financial needs greater than their parishioners' ability to fund. In all 10 parishes and mission chapels will receive the lion's share of the grant, more than $126,000.

These churches are able to take care of some ordinary expenses with their portion of the grant thus enabling them to use more of the annual contributions of their parishioners. St. Joseph Parish in Welsh and its mission chapel in Iowa, St. Peter Claver and St. Charles Borromeo in Fenton are three of those churches who receive CHM funding.

Other programs and ministries aided by the Committee's annual grant are Evangelization, Lay Ministry Formation, Youth Ministry and Vocation Retreats.

The Office of Evangelization uses the $23,000 it receives from CHM for programs like Re-Membering Church and the Evangelistic Outreach to Ministers and Preachers of Other Faiths. The latter provides subscriptions to The Southwest Catholic to leaders of other faiths giving them authentic information about the Catholic faith.

Lay Ministry formation is helped in its programs of Administration, Lay Ministry Programs, a stipend for Holy Cross College instructors, lay ministry development training, and the video taping of Catechist training programs.

Youth Ministry Education/Enrichment and Lay Ministry Development are two areas of youth ministry assisted with the grant from CHM. Annual vocation retreats, which invite single men considering a call to diocesan priesthood, have been held at Saint Charles Center and at Camp Maryhill in the Diocese of Alexandria. The programs have been through the joint auspices of the Diocese of Lake Charles, Alexandria, and Baton Rouge.

Elsewhere in the United States grants from CHM provide "flying Fathers," like Fr. Richard Case, S.J. the opportunity to bring the Eucharist to out of the way villages like Galena, Alaska on the banks of the Yukon River.

Home mission grants are distributed nationwide from the Deep South to the Mountain West, from the Southwest to Alaska, from Appalachia to U.S. territories in the Pacific. This weekend's Appeal collection here in Southwest Louisiana will provide us an opportunity to say thank you to the Committee as well as provide our own help to other dioceses in difficult financial situations. Please consider how much of a difference your gift will make throughout our Catholic churches.

Even with the devastation wrought by the storms, we have so much for which to be thankful. Make your gift this weekend a thank you to God for the many blessings we have been given here in the Diocese of Lake Charles. Reach out to help others in need in the missions of the United States.

Mausoleums at two Cameron churches to be repaired soon

LAKE CHARLES - Work is set to begin soon on the repair of the mausoleums at Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Creole and Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Cameron.

The wind and water from Hurricane Rita wrought havoc in both cemeteries. The two structures held a total of 220 crypts, 132 at Sacred Heart and 88 at Our Lady Star of the Sea.

Charles Miller Construction Co. Inc. and Solari Marble and Granite Works will be jointly doing the work.

The job will include removing broken shutter hardware and installing new hardware to each crypt, installing new granite shutters and cleaning and re-installing granite pieces.

The salt water brought ashore by the storm damaged many of the door hangers, according to Jimmy Solari, of Solari Marble and Granite Works. "We may be able to reuse some of the doors but many have been broken and will have to be replaced," Solari said.

Damage was severe due to Hurricane Rita at the mausoleums of Sacred Heart of Jesus Church in Creole and Our Lady Star of the Sea Church in Cameron. Broken pieces of granite as well as whole doors that may be reusable are shown here at Sacred Heart. Work will begin soon to repair the facilities.

Vatican seminar explores lessons of Chernobyl

ROME - The Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace has organized a seminar on the Chernobyl nuclear accident, marking the 20th anniversary of the disaster.

The April 21 seminar, organized in cooperation with the Ukrainian ambassador to the Holy See, was designed to examine the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, and the implications for the "complex and difficult" questions surrounding the peaceful use of atomic energy, said Cardinal Renato Martino, the chief Vatican organizer.

The cardinal told the meeting that deaths caused by the Chernobyl accidents, and the fears that were raised, should prompt national leaders to examine issues of security and the common good in connection with atomic energy, and to ensure that "equity and intergenerational solidarity" are served by public policies.

On April 26, 1986, a series of human errors and technical malfunctions caused an explosion at the Chernobyl plant in Ukraine, releasing radioactive materials over an area of hundreds of square miles. Experts believe that the radiation was a factor in approximately 16,000 deaths.

(This page paid for by the Diocese of Lake Charles.)

X-TREME SPRING BREAK '06 - "Students Rebuilding Louisiana," before working for "Habitat for Humanity" during their spring break,saw first hand the aftermath of Rita at Holly Beach on through Cameron, Creole and then into Calcasieu Parish along the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road with guides Monte Hurley and Capt'n Sammie Faulk

VOLUNTEERS from around the nation have been coming to Cameron to help with the cleanup and rebuilding after Hurricane Rita. Some of the persons are pictured above relaxing at Camp Cameron following a day's work. (Photo by Julie Burleigh.)

POLICE JURY

Cont. from Pg. 1

The Jury also agreed to advertise for new parish road equipment to replace that which was damaged by flood water. Road foreman Ellis Nunez reported that Johnson Bayou had the most pieces of equipment damaged. Juror Farque offered a motion to spend up to $500,000 for lease or purchase of new equipment, saying, "I looked at most of that equipment, and for safety reasons and other issues, I wouldn't run it."

Mobile phones for the road crew foremen for better communication during the work day were also approved, and Nunez reported that a new parish barn is being built in Grand Lake. The temporary building is being constructed by FEMA and should be ready in 30 days. It will house equipment from all parts of the parish.

HOSPITAL ISSUES

Jennifer Jones reported to the Jury on legislation that has recently been filed which would prevent a hospital from being re-built in Cameron Parish. The bill would require a proof of sufficient population and occupancy to re-build any damaged hospitals, which Cameron Parish could not provide. She asked the Jury to send a resolution in opposition, noting that Rep. Mickey Frith has already spoken to the bill's author, who didn't realize Cameron Parish would be affected.

Jones also reported that a FEMA representative told her the Louisiana Recovery Authority has pulled all health care projects under consideration in order to re-evaluate the health needs on a regional basis, planning to make facilities in larger areas bigger instead of rebuilding in smaller areas. She said that Lower Cameron Parish has lost not only its hospital but also its pharmacy and its dentist. The Lower Cameron Hospital District had planned to include those services in its replacement facility.

When asked if the LRA had considered the economic impact of losing all medical care, Jones said they were even told of a plant that said they would not come back without a hospital, and they were "not impressed".

Regarding the recent closure of the US Public Health Service clinic, Jones reported that the agreement with Moss Regional Hospital to provide services lasted only about a week. The USPHS had assured Moss that it could bill Medicaid and Medicare from the clinic, a converted two bedroom mobile home. When it was discovered that they could not do so, Moss left.

Then, according to Jones, the USPHS gave the parish two options. One, the Hospital Service District could run the clinic, using money earmarked for all parish health service providers, at a cost of $150,000 per month. Or, two, the ambulance districts and EMTs could provide triage and transportation for serious cases, with the rural health clinics providing routine care. The district chose the second option.

EOC REPORT

EOC Director Clifton Hebert reported that the state Department of Environmental Quality signed a contract a month and a half ago to have the vehicles and boats strewn around the parish by the hurricane removed. The out of state contractor still hasn't started work in Louisiana. Small engines such as lawnmowers are now being picked up by the Corps of Engineers contractor.

Pilings and concrete slabs in Holly Beach are not being removed by the contractor, because they have been deemed ineligible due to provisions of the Stafford Act and hazardous content. The Corps of Engineers will look at the question again, however.

The mountains of debris located at four sites around the parish are the responsibility of the private owners, Hebert said. Apparently there was some problem with the contract originally signed between the landowners and Philips & Jordan, the debris removal contractor. A new contract agreement has been reached between P & J and the owners of the Romero, Wilkerson, and Hebert sites to allow the debris to be buried on site. So far the McCain site owners have not accepted the P & J offer, according to Hebert.

VOLUNTEERS AT Camp Cameron here get massages to help relieve tense muscles after working to help Cameron residents clean up and restore their homes. (Photo by Julie Burleigh.)

Johnson B. Honor List

The following Johnson Bayou High School students were named to the Banner and Honor Rolls for the past semester of school.

BANNER ROLL 1st - 6th.

Drew James Kyle; Hunter Gabriel McGee; Tristan Ethan Trahan; Blake Anthony Badon; Sarah Anne Conner; William Joseph Cramer; Morgan Michelle Leger; Dylan Gabriel Morrison; Allison Renee Romero; Byron Murphy Romero; Kristopher Allen Trahan.

BANNER ROLL 7th - 12th.

Destiny Delane Sonnier, Shalyn Michelle Broussard, Holly Michelle Simon, Blaine Peavy Trahan, Katrina Marie McGee, Timothy Adam Trahan, Katie Ann Young.

HONOR ROLL 1st - 6th.

Logan Gage Badon; Alexander Reese Boudreaux; Candace Brooke Clark; Braxton Gabriel Hebert; Cade Alan Badon; Kevin Wayne Harrington; Daria Jane Jinks; Keylee Young; Alexis Sierra Call; Kirsten Gabryel Webb; Marcus Scott Fontenot; Zachary Paul Hebert.

HONOR ROLL 7th - 12th.

Michael Jerrrett Trahan; Tabatha Leann Harrington; Christian Lynn Viator; Charmayne Alaina Barentine; Brad Cody Fontenot; Aaron Joseph Jinks; Randy Alan Scroggins; Kimberly Nicole Trahan; Cody Allen Meaux; Kia Mariette Meaux; Justine Nichole Trahan; Keith Michael Badon; Kaitlin Danielle Peavy-Storm; Sabrina Sandifer.

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This change is meant to correct a filing oversight in the Intrastate Tariff. The original increase was made in the SDN OneNet Service Guide applicable to state to state calls, and communicated to Customers via newspaper ads. Customers with a uniquely negotiated per-call charge were not, and will not be, impacted by this increase.

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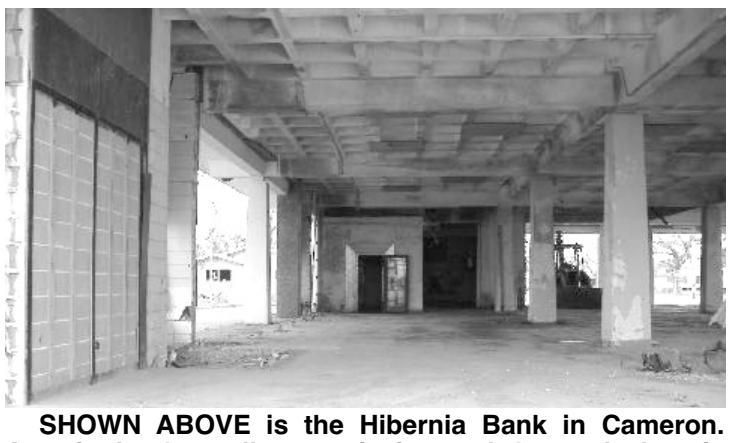
HOUSES SCHEDULED for demolition in Cameron are marked with a variety of symbols before destruction. This is the parsonage of the First Baptist Church, built in 1938 and originally owned by the Frank Welch family. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

A FREE GARAGE sale was given in Cameron over the weekend at the home of Darlene Crosby. The clothing, toys, shoes and linens were donated by Unlocking Autism of Baton Rouge. There will be another garage sale this Saturday and Sunday. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

A MOBILE HOME is packed into sealed containers after demolition, due to fears of asbestos. Even modern mobile homes built after asbestos was banned are being treated as hazardous due to an obscure regulation. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



SHOWN ABOVE is the Hibernia Bank in Cameron. Amazingly, the walls are missing and the vault door is wide open. (Photo by Dino Angelici.)

THIS VEHICLE ended up in the roadside ditch Sunday at the corner of Hwy. 27 and Joe Dugas Road in Hackberry. No injuries were reported. (Courtesy of Grace Welch)

Science has never drummed up quite as effective a tranquilizing agent as a sunny spring day. —W. Earl Hall

Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.
-T. S. Eliot

Miller Livestock Markets, Inc.
Market Report

DeQuincy (Saturday) April 22: Livestock Receipts: Cattle 439, Horses 2 Hogs 88, Sheep 103, and Goats 101. **BABY CALVES:** Dairy 75⁰⁰-125⁰⁰ per HD, Beef 125⁰⁰-200⁰⁰ per HD, Roping Calves (125-200 lbs.) 1.85-2.10 per lb. **STEER & HEIFER CALVES:** 200-300 lb. Steers: 1.50-1.95 per lb., Heifers: 1.35-1.85 per lb.; 300-400 lb. Steers: 1.35-1.90 per lb., Heifers: 1.30-1.80 per lb.; 400-500 lb. Steers: 1.30-1.50 per lb., Heifers: 1.25-1.50 per lb.; 500-600 Lb. Steers: 1.15-1.35 per lb., Heifers: 1.10-1.25 per lb.; 600-700 lb. Steers: .90-1.05 per lb., Heifer: .90-1.00 per lb. **CATTLE:** Cutter & Utility: .48-.50 per lb.; Canners: .45-.49 per lb.; Fat Cows: .46-.48 per lb.; Thin Cows: .36-.40 per lb.; Slaughter Bulls: .55-.63 per lb.; Feeder Bulls: .65-.70 per lb. **COW/CALF PAIRS:** 850⁰⁰-1050⁰⁰ per pair. **PREGNANCY TESTED COWS:** 700⁰⁰-900⁰⁰ per HD. **HOGS:** Choice Barrows & Gilts: .40-.45; Medium Barrow & Gilts: .36-.40; Butcher Pigs: .40-.50; Feeder Pigs: .55-.70; Sows 300-500 lbs. .NONE per lb.; Boars: NONE per lb. HORSES: .28-.37 per lb. **SHEEP & GOATS:** 25⁰⁰-230⁰⁰ per HD.

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NEW LISTING: 132 Willow Ridge Lane. Two 2 acre tracts in Grand Lake area all for $30,000. Doublewide will be demolished and removed. Lots had water during hurricane. Low but can be built up for mobile home. Minimum 1300 sq ft on homes.

4.429 ACRES in Grand Lake. Was originally set up for mobile home with mechanical system and electricity and water. Motor missing on mechanical. Priced at $42,000.00.

Call ERA Moffett Realty, Inc. and ask for Grace for more info. 1/11tfc

.....

HI FRIENDS in Cameron Parish! If you are interested in buying or selling houses/properties, please call me. RE/MAX Realty Pros at 478-2668 or 274-9996. Ask for Analee Guilbeaux Gregory. 4/5 - 4/29p.

FOR SALE in Hackberry/ Johnson Bayou Area: Camps, homes, lots & land. Gulf & canal waterfront property. Prices from $35,000. Kathy Ware, Realtor, a Hackberry resident, (337) 884-1588. Coldwell Banker Legacy, 3709 Maplewood Drive, Sulphur, La. 70663. Phone: (337) 625-3150. 4/19 - 5/27p.

FOR SALE in Hackberry: 16 x 60 mobile home 3/2 with addon. Commercial/residential. Partly furnished. Large workshop. Utility room. Carport. RV parking. Deck. Fish Station. Call (337) 762-3796. 4/12 - 5/3p.

Real Estate

FOR SALE: 2001 Double wide 28 x 48 Schultz Gulf Breeze to be moved. Porch included. 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Approximately 1173 sq. ft., $45,000 or best offer. Call (337) 962-4431 or (337) 962-4432. 4/12 - 4/26p.

FOR SALE: Two bedroom storm damaged, but repairable house on Kershaw Ln to be moved. Make offer. Built strong by local carpenter. Call: (337) 562-9908.

Wanted: Real Estate

LOOKING FOR Hurricane damaged house or camp to be moved from Sabine or Johnson Bayou, Hackberry area. Please call (337) 898-9046 or (337) 652-7936. 4/12 - 4/26p.

For Sale

METAL OUTLET Metal Roofing ~ Carports ~ Metal Buildings ~ Patio Cover Kits ~ C's & Z's ~ Custom Trim ~ RV & Equipment Covers ~ Metal Doors ~ Windows. 337-625-2778. 2241 E. Napoleon, Sulphur. Open Mon.-Fri. 7 am-5 pm, Sat. 7 am-12 noon. tfc.

GIVE YOUR truck a rugged good look with a Reflex spray on truck liner. Call A-1 Coatings for more information.533 Landry Lane, Sulphur, La. Phone; (337) 533-0043 or 263-2403. 4/26 tfc.

D & D Taylor Farms, LLC Demolition, construction, lot leveling, excavation - track hoe services, ponds & dirt work, tractor & bush hog services. Call Dale Taylor, owner/operator at (337) 250-2666. 4/26 - 5/17p.

Work Wanted

GRAND LAKE Area: I will babysit in my home. Ages 2 & up. For more information please call: (337) 598-4665. 4/26p.

Garage Sale

GARAGE SALE: Sat., April 29, 8 AM-1 PM. Furniture, crafts, baby items, bedding, clothing & misc. items. 584 Arsene LeBleu Rd 4 miles S. of Lake Charles Airport. 4/26mc.

Notice

A Goodbye Message to
Cameron Parish

For the past 2 months I have been working with people and prices on getting things together to go and rebuild in Holly Beach on my beachfront lots. Fema, Police Jury or whoever has made it impossible for this to happen. The elevation level on my lots is 20 feet. That means my floor would be 16 ft. in the air. Can you imagine 5 grandbabies going up and down these stairs in order to play in the sand or go to the beach for a swim. Plus, there is no store, so can you imagine bringing groceries after groceries up those stairs. Plus it should be my business if I want to build on the ground or how high I want to go. To Cameron Parish, I would spend my insurance money on a new camp and build back and others did also. You made it impossible with the new ordinances, laws and regulations to go back. It's the parish that will lose out from tax paying people that loved to go and have a good time in Holly Beach. I'll leave with good memories.

Good Bye
Mike & Shawnee Detraz,
Abbeville, La.

God Bless America

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The Police Jury listened to several Cameron Parish residents this past Monday night. Questions were raised whether the LRA is in the best interests of Cameron Parish or not.

The Police Jury was very attentive and concerned for Cameron Parish residents as new light was shed on LRA/HMGP eligibility details.

I asked the Police Jury to rescind the new ABFE elevation requirements due to LRA homeowner ineligiblilty. Homeowners who live in the floodplain are ineligible for any of the $150,000 LRA homeowner assistance, even though stricter elevation standards have been enacted.

Some HMGP funds may be available if we continue to give up our freedom. The most serious point is that if you own the land, you should be free to build as low or as high as you want. Your land, your freedom, your choice.

With every choice, there is a consequence. In this case, freedom is the consequence. FEMA's goal is to remove people from the floodplain. The LRA's goal is to renovate large Louisiana cities away from the coast. Think about this.

At the time of this writing, a public meeting was scheduled for Wednesday night with the HMGP representative. Hopefully, direct questions were answered straight from the horse's mouth for all the people to hear the truth.

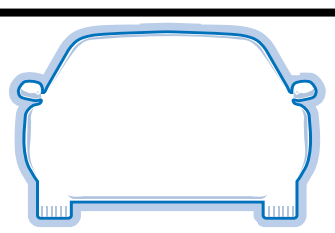
I ask all Cameron Parish residents to stop being afraid and speak out. It doesn't matter if you work for the parish or the state, run a business, or are afraid of public speaking. Stand up and be counted with all of Cameron Parish.

Your input makes a difference, whether in private or public. Contact your Police Juror now and let them know exactly what you really think about more and more and more elevation restrictions. Go to the Police Jury meeting this coming Monday, 6 p.m., Grand Lake Fireman's Center and voice your opinion.

Our leaders need your support and your input to help them make the right decisions for the future of Cameron Parish. Give up or stand up.

Jay Rutherford
Creole Resident

Need Help Filling In The Blank?



COME TALK TO...
Thomas "T. J." Kramer
Sales Representative
Shetler Lincoln-Mercury

Office: 478-1720
Cell: 540-7192
Toll Free: 800-460-5461
3201 Hwy. 14 Lake Charles

— JOB APPLICATIONS —

The Johnson Bayou Recreation Center may be hiring an inside supervisor. Also, the following part-time positions may be available: Swimming pool supervisor, cooks, and lifeguards. The Recreation Center will be offering lifeguard courses for 15 year olds and up at a later date.

If interested, please contact Stacey Badon at (337) 802-8383 for more information and an application. The deadline for above job applications will be May 5, 2006.

RUN: April 27 & May 3 (A-44)

— POSITION AVAILABLE —

Cameron Parish Community Health Planner

Grant money is available to fund the position of Cameron Parish Community Health Planner. The Cameron Parish Community Health Planner will coordinate the recovery and strategic planning process for all health care providers in Cameron Parish under the direction and supervision of the Cameron Parish Hurricane Health Care Recovery Task Force.

Job duties include working with local, state and federal government entities, as well as private organizations to secure funding.

Requirements include knowledge of community service organizations and record keeping, ability to produce required financial and monthly administrative reports.

Education and experience is required, including working with non-profit agencies, computer experience, bachelor's degree preferred.

Please forward resume to Jennifer Jones at P. O. Box 1550, Cameron, Louisiana, and call (337) 494-5563 to schedule appointment for interview.

Legal Notices

I AM APPLYING to the Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control of the State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of "Low alcoholic content" at retail in the Parish of Cameron at at the following address:

482- A Marshall St.,
Cameron, La.
Pitstop
Ronald Gayle Nunez

Petition of Opposition should be made in writing in accordance with L.R.S. Title 26, Section 85 and 283.
RUN: April 20, 27 - A 22

NOTICE

I AM APPLYING to the Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control of the State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of Low alcoholic content" at retail in the Parish of Cameron at at the following address:

905 Main Street, Hackberry,
La. 70645
Circle A Food #2
/s/Sharif A. Dhanani, Member

Petition of Opposition should be made in writing in accordance with L.R.S. Title 26, Section 85 and 283.
RUN: April 20, 27 - A 26

NOTICE

I AM APPLYING to the Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control of the State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of Low alcoholic content" at retail in the Parish of Cameron at at the following address:

905 A Main Street, Hackberry,
La. 70645
Mr. A's Deli
/s/Sharif A. Dhanani, Member

Petition of Opposition should be made in writing in accordance with L.R.S. Title 26, Section 85 and 283.
RUN: April 20, 27 - A 27

CAMERON PARISH GRAVITY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 7
MARCH 16, 2006
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES

The Cameron Parish Gravity Drainage District No. 7 board met for the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. on March 16, 2006.

Members present are: Curtis L. Trahan, Ricky Romero, E, Carol Trahan, Ivan Barentine, and Rogerest Romero.

Absent are: none.

Guests are: Scotty Badon and Patty Morris.

The board discussed cleanup north of Hwy 82 road canal.

On a motion by Ricky Romero and seconded by E. Carol Trahan and carried, to contact DOT for permit to clean south side of Hwy 82 east.

On a motion by Ricky Romero and seconded by Rogerest Romero and carried, the February 15th minutes and the February 28th special meeting minutes were approved.

On a motion by Ivan Barentine and seconded by Rogerest Romero and carried, to approve and pay bills.

On a motion by Ricky Romero and seconded by Rogerest Romero and carried, to approve permit:

LCUP#060302 - Hunt Oil Company - Section 32, T14S-R11W.

Scotty Badon discussed salinity readings.

On a motion by Rogerest Romero and seconded by E. Carol Trahan and carried, the board was adjourned.

/s/Curtis L. Trahan
Curtis L. Trahan, President
Attest:
/s/Patricia Morris
RUNS: April 27 - A 38

PROCEEDINGS
Cameron Parish Public Library
Board of Control
February 21, 2006 -- 4:00 P.M.
Grand Lake Library

President, Cyndi Sellers called the Cameron Parish Public Library Board of Control Meeting to order on Tuesday, February 21, 2006 at the Grand Lake Library at 4:00 p.m. The following members were present: Gayle Sanner, Stephanie Rogers, Wanita Harrison and Cyndi Sellers. Absent were: John Calzada, Kenny Trahan and Douaine Conner, Police Jury ex-officio member.

Wanita Harrison led the prayer and Gayle Sanner led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Guest: Wendy Primeaux Beard.

On the motion of Mrs. Sanner, seconded by Mrs. Rogers and carried the board unanimously voted to approve the January 17, 2006 minutes.

Darrell Williams was not available to discuss the financial report. After careful review and on the motion of Mrs. Sanner, seconded by Mrs. Harrison and carried the board unanimously voted to accept the financial report.

After a brief discussion it was decided not to pursue the purchase of property in Cameron for a new main library.

On the motion of Mrs. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Harrison and carried the board unanimously voted to rent a storage unit to store donated materials.

The next meeting was set for March 21, 2006 at 4:00 p.m.

There being no further business and upon the motion of Mrs. Rogers, seconded by Mrs. Sanner the meeting was adjourned.

APPROVED:
/s/Cyndi Sellers
Cyndi Sellers, Board President
ATTEST:
/s/Charlotte Trosclair
Charlotte Trosclair, secretary
RUNS: April 27 - A 39

Calcasieu Parish Consortium-Workforce Investment Board (WIB)
LEGAL NOTICE

Request for Proposal (RFP) ANNOUNCEMENT The Calcasieu Parish Consortium Workforce Investment Board is seeking proposals from qualified and eligible organizations to provide comprehensive, year round services with emphasis for out-of-school youth, who meet the eligibility requirements of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) of 1998. These youth should reside in the Local Workforce Area 51 (LWIA) which includes Calcasieu, Cameron, and Jefferson Davis Parishes. the intent of the Workforce Investment Board is to enter into a contractual relationship with one or more proposers beginning July 1, 2006.

Program Services: Youth services will include the provisions of the ten youth elements of the Workforce Investment Act. Service providers should be the coordinators of Program Design and Program elements by delivering at least one of the Program elements and coordinating the delivery of the other required program elements not delivered directly by their agency.

Youth Target Group: The youth target group for this program is youth 17-21 years of age who meet the WIA definition of an out-of-school youth, An out-of-school youth is defined as: (A) an eligible youth who is a school dropout; OR (B) an eligible youth who has received a secondary school diploma or its equivalent but is basic skills deficient, unemployed, or underemployed. Youth must (1) meet the criteria for low income AND (2) meet one or more of the following characteristics: Deficient in Basic Literacy Skills; School Dropout; Homeless, Runaway, or Foster Child; Pregnant or Parenting; Offender; or Individuals who Require Additional Assistance to Complete an Educational Program or to Secure and Hold employment. In-school youth ages 14-21 may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Youth currently enrolled in a WIA program may be carried over regardless of status AND in the event a current provider does not renew their services, the youth may be served by a renewed or new provider.

Performance Requirements for Youth include the following Common Measures: Placement in Employment or Education, attainment of a Degree or Certificate, and Literacy/Numeracy Gains.

Bidders Conference: Request for Proposal (RFP) packets may be obtained at the Bidder's Conference scheduled for **Wednesday, April 26, 2006, at the Calcasieu Parish Workforce Investment Board Office located at 1011 Lakeshore Drive in the Magnolia Building, 6th Floor Conference Room in Lake Charles, LA. One conference will be at 9:00 a.m.and another at 2:00 p.m. All bidders are encouraged to attend.** Agencies unable to attend the conference may pick up an RFP any time after the Bidder's Conference at the Workforce Investment Board Office. One-on-one Workshops will be available (by appointment) to assist with the RFP.

Due Date: The RFP must be completed and submitted to the Workforce Investment Board by **12:00 NOON on Wednesday, May 17, 2006.**

Disclaimer: The Workforce Investment Board reserves the right to cancel in part, or in its entirety, this Procurement based upon the best interests of the Board. The Board reserves the right to reject any non-responsive proposals. Any programs awarded are based upon actual receipt of and availability of funds provided through the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

Contact Persons: Questions on the proposal or the proposal process should be directed to Juanita Poland, Planner or Jean M. Augustine, WIB Director by calling (337) 721-3584.

The Workforce Investment Board is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids are available to the disabled upon request. (TSS 1-800-947-5277). The Calcasieu Parish Police Jury sponsors the program.

Dates Notice to Run: Sunday, April 23, Monday, April 24, and Tuesday, April 25 for American Press and for Jennings Daily News. Week of April 23, Week of April 30, and Week of May 7 for Cameron Parish Pilot.
RUNS: April 27, May 3, 10 - A 40

NOTICE

Sealed bids for the following will be received by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, 1201 Capitol Access, **Room 304M**, Headquarters Administration Building, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, Telephone number (225/379-1444) **until 9:45 a.m., FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2006**. No bids bill be accepted after this hour. At 10:00 a.m. of the same day and date, they will be publicly opened and read in Room 304B, Headquarters Administration Building.

CONTRACT PROPOSAL PURCHASE REQUISITION NO. 200616
ANNUAL CONTRACT FOR FURNISHING TYPE I HIGH PERFORMANCE PERMANENT PAVEMENT MARKING TAPE AND RELATED ITEMS, FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING JULY 1, 2006 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2007.

The Department will award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder without discrimination on grounds of race, color or national origin. Minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids pursuant to this advertisement.

Full information, specifications and proposal forms may be obtained upon request from the above address.

Bids must be submitted on proposal forms provided by the Department. Evidence of authority to submit the bid shall be required in accordance with R.S. 39:1594.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any informalities.

JOHNNY B. BRADBERRY
SECRETARY
DANA D. WATLINGTON,
DOTD PROCUREMENT
DIRECTOR
RUNS: April 27 - A 41

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

Sealed bids for the following will be received by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, 1201 Capitol Access, **Room 304M**, Headquarters Administration Building, Baton Rouge, LA 70802, Telephone number (225/379-1444) **on date(s) shown below, until 9:45 a.m.** No bids bill be accepted after this hour. At 10:00 a.m. of the same day and date, they will be publicly opened and read in Room 304M, Headquarters Administration Building.

Evidence of authority to submit the bid shall be required in accordance with R.S. 38:2212 (A)(1)(c) or R.S. 39:1594(C)(2)(D).

BIDS TO BE OPENED: **MAY 18, 2006**

LIMESTONE

The Department will award the contract to the **LOWEST** responsible bidder without discrimination on grounds of race, color or national origin. Minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids pursuant to this advertisement.

Full information may be obtained upon request from the above address.

The Department reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any informalities.

JOHNNY B. BRADBERRY
SECRETARY
DANA D. WATLINGTON,
DOTD PROCUREMENT
DIRECTOR
RUNS: April 27 - A 42

MEETING TO BE HELD AT
GRAND LAKE FIREMEN'S
CENTER
CAMERON PARISH POLICE
JURY
AGENDA
MAY 1, 2006
6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Reading of Minutes
4. Drilling Permits:

a. El Paso Production Company - Klondike, Section 25, T12S, R3W, W.L. Broussard No. 1, (proposed drill site and structures), Cameron Parish, LA. (060501)

b. The Houston Exploration Company - Offshore, Grand Chenier, East Cameron Area, Block 9, S.L. 13185 Well No. 001, (proposed site clearance), Cameron Parish, LA. (060502)

c. Manti Operating Company - Lowry, Section 4, T12S, R4W, Biscuit Island Prospect, (proposed board road, drill site, and structures), Cameron Parish, LA. (060503)

d. Hubco Exploration, Inc. - Grand Chenier, Section 29, T15S, R5W, M.O. Miller Estate Well #1, (proposed well location), Cameron Parish, LA. (060504)

e. Mack Energy Company - Grand Chenier, Section 16, T13S, R3W, Mallard Bay Prospects A & B, (proposed propwash and structures), Cameron Parish, LA. (060505)

f. Mack Energy Company - Grand Chenier, Section 8, T13S, R3W, Mallard Bay Prospects C & D, (proposed propwash and structures), Cameron Parish, LA. (060506)

5. Appointments:

a. Lower Cameron Hospital Service District - Leslie Trahan

b. Industrial Development Board - Charles McDaniel - term expired

c. Mosquito Control - Whitney Baccigalopi - term expired

6. Advertise for Bids:

a. Road & Bridge Maintenance Equipment

b. Lease - Portion of 80 Acres - Grand Lake

c. OEP Vehicle

d. Repairs to Cameron Fire Dept.

7. Acceptance of Bids:

a. Project No. 2006-01 - Parishwide Road Signing Project

b. Courthouse Elevator

8. Resolution - Opposition to HB1224 - Hospitals

9. Ronnie Gayle Nunez - Recovery Issues

10. Letter to Fire Marshall

11. Pay April, 2006 Bills

12. Establish Meeting Site

13. Staff Report:

RUN: Apr. 27 (A 45)

THE GRAND LAKE High School Girl's Softball Team, the defending Class B State Champs, will be playing in the State Championships this weekend at the Frasch Park Complex in Sulphur. Their first game vs French Settlement will be at 6 p.m. on Field 20. Cheerleaders Brett Griffith, Kory Dahlen, and Justin Howerton are shown above. (Photo courtesy Sammie Faulk.)

GRAND LAKE Pitcher Lakeyn Duhon is shown hurling another strike. The Lady Hornets will be in the state playoffs in Sulphur this weekend.
(Photo courtesy Sammie Faulk.)

S. C. girls to play Friday at Frasch

BY CHRIS & LAURIE MUELLER

Lakeyn Mock recorded 8 strikeouts as South Cameron advanced to the class 1A quarterfinals with a 3-0 shutout over Catholic Pointe Coupee. Mock has had 23 strikeouts in two playoff games. Mock and Christian McCall had the only two Lady Tarpon hits.

South Cameron will play Ascencion Catholic on Friday at 6 p.m. on Field 16 at Frasch Park in Sulphur. Last year the Lady Tarpons were absent from the tournament, losing to Rosepine 2-0 in the regionals.

Lady Hornets are set to defend their title

BY CHRIS & LAURIE MUELLER

The Grand Lake Lady Hornets are set to defend their class B title after a 4-0 shutout against Kilbourne in the regionals. Lakeyn Duhon gave up one hit with 8 strikeouts.

Top hitters for Grand Lake were Brittany Hebert, 2-3 with a RBI; Tressa Theriot, 2-3 and 2 RBIs; and Marlene Lavergne, 2-3 and 1 RBI. The Lady Hornets have outscored their opponents 8-0 through two playoff games so far.

Grand Lake will play French Settlement at 6 p.m. on Friday on Field 20 at Frasch Park.

Baseball

BASEBALL SCORES

Merryville 5, South Cameron 2 - Thomas Trosclair went the distance for the Tarpons. Top hitters were Jordan Istre, 2-3 and a run; and Jordan Richard, 2-3 and 1 RBI.

Grand Lake 9, ESA 5 - Heath Romero and Stephen Smith pitched for the Hornets. Top hitters were Ryan Monceaux, 3-4; Levi Stephenson, 2-4; and Romero, 2-4. The win gives Grand Lake their fifth consecutive district 7B title.

Cam. Elem. honor and banner rolls

The Cameron elementary honor and banner roll for the fourth six weeks ending March 27 are as follows:

First grade - Banner Roll - Marissa Dupont, and Tori Smith.

First grade - Honor Roll - Olivia Hebert, Baleigh Conner, Braydon Boullion and Nathanael Pugh.

Second grade - Banner Roll - Zachery Bignall, J'Nae Nunez, and Morgan Primeaux.

Honor Roll - Damon Pugh, Erin Hill, Tony Robledo and Blake Theriot.

Third grade - Banner Roll - Madison Bonsall, Jose Castillo, Alec January, Sheridan Smith, Hunter Sorrells, Vianca Gonzales, Sadie DeBarge and Arial Mathis.

Honor Roll - Micheal Sedlock and Joshua Trahan.

Fourth grade - Honor Roll - Jade Nunez, Laney Primeaux, Cody Morvant, Henry McCall and Jeffery Racca.

Fifth grade-Banner Roll - Kent Doxey.

Honor Roll - Karlee Primeaux and Kara Wigley.

Sixth grade - Banner Roll - Dina Mendez and Sabrina Peshoff.

Honor Roll - Breann DeBarge, Paige Trahan, Sadie Trahan and Tyler Richard.

Seventh grade - Honor Roll - Ashley Morvant and Jadah Primeaux.

Where are they now?

By NELL COLLIGAN

WADE CARROLL'S VISITOR

I received an e-mail from a Pennsylvania gentleman (signed simply "Dino") who traveled through Cameron Parish on a bicycle in April. He visited with Wade Carroll who was working in front of his former place of business, getting ready to re-open as a convenience store.

He said that the folks in Pennsylvania only know about Katrina and the devastation in New Orleans. He was amazed and saddened by what he saw between Port Arthur, Tex. and Kaplan.

His e-mail included two photos: one of Wade Carroll standing in front of his shop and one of the Hibernia Bank. He had read my column on one of the web sites and thought we might want to use the pictures in the Pilot. He commented on the vault standing wide open in the bank building.

I'm so glad to hear that the Carrolls are returning to Cameron. I am assuming the place of business Dino referred to was Cam-Tool and Machine Shop, on Highway 27, at "the Y."

IRISES AMONG THE DEBRIS

I loved Cyndi Seller's picture in last week's Pilot of the irises blooming amid the storm debris - in the middle of an old rubber tire! Where we imagine nothing could grow, Mother Nature surprises us with her natural bouquet. God's way of encouraging those returning to rebuild. Like the irises, the resilience of the people of Cameron Parish is something to behold.

BULL DOZERS ON DAN STREET

Deanne and Madeleine told us that their home, which was originally Albert and Gertrude Colligan's family home, has now been torn down. The dozer must have been working its way down Dan Street last week, which is the street in front of Cameron Elementary School.

This is a sad moment in time for everyone in our family, from Seattle to Alabama, and all the Louisiana places in between where the family has scattered. Much of our family history began there, across the street from "Cap and Talie" LaBove and down the block from Hadley and Wardella Fontenot. I know there are many of you who can relate to what we are feeling as your home has been removed also. We all need to write down our memories so they won't slip away with the demolished remnants of Rita.

That's it for this week. Please send your news to: 302 Trailwood Lane; Lafayette, La. 70508. Phone: 337-988-5395. nnadc67@aol.com

CAMP CAMERON

Cont. from Pg. 1

Americorps crews staying at camp, sometimes for several weeks, do many cleanup projects around the parish for folks on the list at the EOC. Other groups have done electrical work, construction, tree trimming. Some have traveled long distances, like Greg Snider and wife Carol from British Columbia, and Mike Herbert from upstate New York, and are helping to rebuild homes in the lower parish Greg spent 40 days in yurt #13 this winter, went home for a few weeks and came back with Carol! He says "great memories, but I have to quit enjoying the food so much."

Built and managed by GFP Enterprises, Inc., Sisters, Oregon, under direct contract to FEMA, the camp currently houses up to 250 and will be open to June 1. More Americorps teams, high school seniors and church groups are scheduled.

How to avoid dirt and dust in your home (and work off those extra calories):

- Use window blinds that can be wiped clean rather than curtains that have to be dry-cleaned.
- Wash your bedding in hot water, at least 130 degrees to rid them of any mites.
- Remove unnecessary objects from walls and ceilings.
- Minimize the number of stuffed animals and store items that can't be washed in the toy chest.
- Remove carpeting wherever possible to minimize dust collection.
- Dust each room weekly.

• NOTICE •

Grand Lake, Sweet Lake, Big Lake Residents

Call 48 Hours in Advance for Outdoor Burning

Grand Lake Waterworks - 337-598-3439

Paul Wasson - 337-598-3239 - Home

337-304-6647 - Cell

337-430-7561 - Pager

Dinah Landry - 337-905-6000

Sheriff's Office - 337-775-5111

RUN: Apr. 27 (A 47)

THE BOAT LAUNCH at the west end of the parish was damaged by the storm, but fishermen routinely ignore the upside down Keep Off sign. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

THESE CAMPS at Little Florida have been repaired in time for summer. The newer camps survived the storm fairly well, while most of the older ones were destroyed. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

AS SUMMER approaches, visitors are trying to access Cameron Parish beaches. This road to Martin Beach is washed out, making it impossible for emergency crews to reach any motorists who get in trouble out there. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

It Seems Just Like Yesterday

By Keith Hambrick

Cameron Pilot, April 26, 1973.

PILOTING DAYS ARE RECALLED

BY GENEVA GRIFFITH

Mrs. Edna Theriot Miller cares nothing about "Woman's Lib." Who needs it? This 83 year old descendant of hearty Arcadian stock believes that if you want to do something bad enough you just do it.

Mrs. Miller is the only licensed woman river boat pilot in Louisiana. She has held her pilot's license since 1929. She fondly remembers who and why she got the license, which are unlimited for inland waters.

Fifty-four years ago the United States was recuperating from the effects of World War I. Her husband, the late Nunez Miller and his father, the late Alcide Miller, had launched one of the first twin screw diesel powered boats in the area. The boat was built in 1916 and was a conversion from the gasoline boats which had been a modernization from the sailing schooners.

Miller held unlimited captain and engineer's license and had been shipping out since he was a teenager. He was having trouble finding a licensed crew for his new boat, the "Winona." Since he could handle the boat with the help of only one other person, he approached his wife with the suggestion that she try for her license and become his teammate aboard their boat.

Mrs. Miller recalls that she was coached by her husband and they went to the custom house in New Orleans where she received her license after a day of taking marine tests. The pilot license qualified her to run the boat, however, she found that she liked it better in the engine room. So she became his engineer and served for ten years below deck handling the two engines.

She recalls that in the ten years of answering the bells and jingles she missed only one bell. (The bells and jingles were used as signals from the wheelhouse to signal the engine room when to stop and start the engines and what speed to use.)

The Millers docked their boat at a wharf in front of their home which was located on the Mermentau River. They hauled passengers and freight from Grand Chenier to Lake Arthur, Lake Charles and to New Orleans.

"Madame LeCapitane," as she was affectionately called by passengers aboard the boat, has been described by those who rode with her as one of the ablest bodied seamen they have ever been with. She knew her business and had the confidence of everyone on board.

She recalls that on one of her trips to New Orleans to haul cotton, they "backfreighted" the very first automobile that had ever come to Grand Chenier. It was purchased in New Orleans by the late Nicole Sturlese (father of Moise Sturlese) and was brought back on the low deck of the boat.

She describes the trips to New Orleans in those early days as "following alligator trails."

From Grand Chenier they went to Grand Lake, into Turtle Lake, Alligator Lake, Colligan Lake, White Lake, into the Intracoastal Canal to the Vermilion Locks, then into Vermilion Bay to Wax Bayou, to Morgan City, then on through the Atchafalaya River, passing through many bayous, including Bayou Boeuf and Bayou Black, upstream through Bayou Plaquemines, via Lake Verrett, then into the Mississippi River on to New Orleans.

She recalls that the trip took an average of two weeks, sometimes much longer when they had to lay over in the Port of New Orleans to be unloaded.

She went on shopping trips to downtown New Orleans while the cargo was being unloaded.

She carried many shopping lists for ladies of lower Cameron Parish. She said that no one ever complained about her choices because they had no other choice.

Humor and fond memories twinkle in the bright eyes of this lovely lady as she recalls the past at her camp on the Mermentau which has been constructed at the site of her former home which was destroyed in 1957 when Hurricane Audrey swept in from the Gulf of Mexico and destroyed lower Cameron Parish.

She now makes her home in Lafayette near her two daughters. Her early youth spent in Chenier Perdue with her parents Adolph and Claudice Mauboules Theriot and her family are still vivid memories.

The Mermentau and the lazy days of boat days have bowed to progress. No longer do the old freight and passenger carriers ply the river.

But, when the end of their era came, they did not die. They changed form, and, like their captains, just sailed away.

ATTEND AGRI-BUSINESS SEMINAR

Eight Cameron parish high school seniors attended the young adult agri-business seminar held recently at McNeese sponsored by the Louisiana Bankers association.

They were guests of Cameron's two banks, the Calcasieu Marine National Bank and the Cameron State Bank.

Those attending the meeting were: Don Farrar, Jimmy Brown, Jimmy Pearce, Arnold Jones, Todd Landry and Eddie Benoit, all of South Cameron: Mike Chession and Terry Cox, grand Lake; and Robert Landry, assistant manager of the Calcasieu Marine Bank and E. J. Dronet, president of the Cameron State Bank.

SAVOIE-FAULK FISH FRY

The Savoie-Faulk families had a big fish fry and crawfish boil out at the Indian Mounds in Little Chenier Good Friday. They had to drive through some water on the road in Little Chenier, and said they could see garfish swimming alongside them on the roadway.

Sing and Pat Faulk were there with their two married children, Jody and Hilda Savoie and their four married daughters, as well as their families. Sandy Daigle was home from New Orleans and accompanied Berton and Audrey, and Warner and his family. Also there were Tela and Joe Rogers, Willa Dean and George LeBoeuf and family, Tony and Kala Sue Belanger and Kimberly, and Charise and Russell Corley and son.

TEACHERS HONORED

Teachers of Grand Lake High School were served punch and cookies by the Sweetlake Extension Homemakers Club Monday in observance of Teacher Appreciation Week.

Mrs. Roger Fosson who is retiring this year, was presented with an orchid corsage and a gift from the club.

AUXILIARY ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

Mrs. Jules Dronet presided over the April meeting of the Richard Bros. Post 176 American Legion Ladies Auxiliary at the Post Home.

A supper prepared by Lynex Richard, Post Commander, and Mrs. Roland Primeaux and Mrs. Pete Theriot, was served prior.

The following delegates were chosen to represent the local unit at the Spring Conference in Crowley on April 29.

They are Mesdames Floyd Baccigalopi, Lynex Richard, Clifton Duhon and Jules Dronet. Mrs. Billy Bertrand and Mrs. Edras Nunez are alternates.

BIRDERS TO OBSERVE ANNIVERSARY

The Louisiana Ornithological Society, locally known as the "Birdwatchers," will be in Cameron Parish April 27-28 for their annual spring count as well as to celebrate the 25th anniversary of their organization.

Leave the alligators alone!

By CYNDI SELLERS

"Please leave the alligators alone," is the message Cameron Prairie National Wildlife Refuge Outreach Coordinator Diane Borden-Billiot wants the public to receive.

Since the hurricane put so much salt water into the marshes, many alligators and other wildlife have died. With the drought continuing and the salt not being flushed out by rain, conditions have actually gotten worse for the wildlife.

In the last few weeks, Borden-Billiot has seen animals that survived the storm and its aftermath succumbing to the extended stress and dying.

Some parts of the marsh have salinity as high as 25 parts per thousand. In addition, there are many containers of hazardous material, some of which may be leaking and poisoning wildlife.

Things will only get worse as summer sets in, she said. The refuge system averages over 100 lightning caused wildfires per year, and the piles of hurricane debris containing hazardous material will likely burn.

Surviving alligators are congregating in the few pockets of fresher water available, such as the canal near the refuge headquarters. Being next to Highway 27, they are attracting a lot of attention from travelers, some of whom are getting out of their cars to get a closer look - feeding and even harassing the animals.

Borden-Billiot wants everyone to know that these animals are stressed, hungry, and irritable. They are not used to being so concentrated, and the salt water is irritating their skin and eyes. Feeding the gators just causes them to associate people with food, which could lead to tragedy.

So, please don't feed or annoy the gators, she says. And tell your guests not to do it either.

Cameron Outdoors

By LOSTON MCEVERS

Garner Nunez and I fished Toledo Bend this last week, but the trip was cut short as bad weather hit us Friday morning early. Strong winds, hail and a real downpour of heavy rain made us make a decision to come on home. We did have good success Tuesday through Thursday, catching 52 bass with 15 keepers (have to be 14 inches in length) with the largest weighing four pounds.

We caught most of our fish on lizards, watermelon blue and gourd green zoom lizards. We were fishing from 16 ft. to two ft. working baits slow. Winds were mostly calm, water temperatures running 72 to 80 degrees. The normal lake level of 172' has been low, but water was up to 168.02. Lots of anglers are using watermelon/red, rainbow trout colored Senko's plastics. Lots of bass have already spawned, moving off the beds, but there's still some spawning going on.

We met quite a few Cameron anglers that were up to Toledo to compete in tournaments. Bob Savoie came over to the camp and he mentioned that Darren Thibodeaux, Danny Demary and a few others were there.

Wednesday I saw something floating past us and noticed it was a syringe and the first thing I thought of was "dope", then as I talked to the owner of Big Bass Marina, he told me the had syringes in is tackle box, to blow air in his plastic worms, and also reminded me that there were many anglers that had to take insulin injections. I realized I had thought wrong.

There's a young lady angler, Tanya Sorter of Hemphill, Tex. who has a 14.25 pound largemouth, measuring 27.72 inches long. She put it in the Budweiser Sharelunker program, and she will get an exact replica of her fish. She caught this fish on Toledo Bend, March 4.

Fishing in two different coves, we saw two bald eagles, got within 30 feet from the tree it was in and fished awhile before one left. We also saw three pairs of wood ducks come out of the trees and saw one nest about 30 feet into a tall pine tree. A beauty to see.

LOCAL NEWS

The Intracoastal Canal is producing some nice catfish, using shrimp or chicken dough balls. J. C. Boudreaux told my wife that he caught a nice large catfish. Seven or 12 pounds, so if she couldn't remember, we'll give J. C. a good span size. I know J. C. catches some nice catfish each year, but don't forget he catches some large choupique, as he used to be the "Choupique King."

A few years back, I still believe his wife Virginia, outfished him, but he never tells what she catches, it's always "me and her". Oh, he also told my wife that he caught a 25 pound redfish in Weldon Authement's pond. This was a freshwater pond Weldon stocks with real nice bass, some large bass plus perch and white perch for he and his friends. Weldon is now deceased but his memories are still with us.

Now I'm not saying with Hurricane Rita pushing huge amounts of saltwater over Trosclair Road, there couldn't have been redfish in the pond, but I still think this is one of JC's fish tales.

NEWS BRIEFS

Guy Broussard, Cameron postmaster, now working in the Lake Charles temporary office has been catching some redfish in Grand Chenier on the Mermentau River. Guy says with price of gas going to the $3 mark, he may have to limit his trips. I know it's nothing to use the bass boat and burn $85 of gas plus $50 to fill up the pickup truck and that's not counting, outboard oil, ice, snacks, and fishing equipment.

Bacterium is danger when handling seafood - Savoie

By KEVIN SAVOIE

Vibrio vulnificus is a bacterium that occurs naturally in the warm, salty waters of estuaries and oceans. It can be found in a wide number of sources, including water, sediment, plankton, fish, crabs, shrimp, oysters and clams.

The organism is able to infect humans who ingest it (typically through eating raw oysters) or through a wound caused while handling or cleaning fish, crabs, oysters, etc. An existing wound may also serve as a source of infection from the bacteria in seawater.

Fortunately, most healthy people are resistant to infection. However, individuals with certain types of chronic, underlying diseases are at serious risk. Persons with diabetes, cirrhosis and other liver diseases, gastric disorders, leukemia, cancer, lung carcinoma, acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), AIDS-related complex (ARC) and asthma requiring the use of steroids should avoid consuming raw shellfish or inadequately cooked seafood.

For such persons, Vibrio vulnificus is one of the most invasive and rapidly fatal human pathogens known. Infection in this group of individuals could result in the "primary septicemia" form where the mortality rate is more than 50 percent.

Symptoms following ingestion generally occur within 16 to 38 hours and include fever, chills, a decrease in blood pressure and the development of "secondary lesions" typically on the legs. These lesions begin as fluid-filled blisters, which progress and result in extensive destruction of muscle tissue often requiring amputation of the affected limb.

Persons infected with V. vulnificus through wounds also develop fever and chills, with redness, swelling, pain and tissue destruction at the site of the wound, but do not develop the secondary lesions typical of ingestion cases. The fatality rate for wound infections is approximately 25 percent, with deaths occurring primarily in persons with the underlying diseases listed above.

Individuals who are considered in the "at risk" group should take the following precautions to avoid vibrio infections:

· Never eat raw shellfish or improperly cooked seafood.

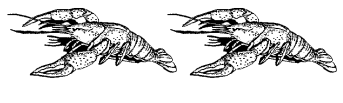
· Avoid contaminating wounds with seawater, fish or other sources.

· Avoid handling crabs, fish, oysters and shrimp with bare hands. Wear gloves, long sleeves, long pants and shoes if you must handle these products.

· Clean any wounds received from fish or other seafood or wounds that come into contact with seawater, mud, etc. with alcohol or other appropriate disinfectants.

For more information, visit www.vibrio.com and read the "Bad Bug Book" by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Savoie is a natural resources and fisheries agent based in Lake Charles for the Louisiana Sea Grant Program and the Louisiana State University AgCenter. He can be reached at ksavoie@agcenter.lsu.edu. His column can also be found at http://www.seagrantfish.lsu.edu/resources/index.html.



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Saturday, April 29th 11am - 5Pm

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Hwy 82 @ Mile Marker 15

Barry Badon & Bayou Boys Playing 1:00-2:30 Pm & 3:00-4:30 Pm
Deep South Productions will DJ Beginning at 11:00 am and
During intermission of the main Band
Lunch - Crawfish, hot Dogs, hamBurgers, Cochon De Lait
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