



JACOB JOHNSON, Son of Ron and Mary Johnson of Cameron, is shown above with U.S. Representative David Vitter, left, and U.S. Senator George Allen, right, at a Vitter staff/grass roots organizational meeting held recently in Lafayette. Johnson is working for Vitter's senate campaign as the Cameron Parish Chairman. He will be serving the campaign in a different capacity when he moves to Baton Rouge in August to attend LSU, where he plans to major in Political Science.

Parish economic plans discussed

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

Parish leaders met with regional and state economic development directors Tuesday evening to map out a plan for Cameron Parish's economic future.

The planning meeting was organized by George Swift, director of the recently formed Southwest Partnership, which was formed to promote economic development for the five parish SW Louisiana area.

Participating in the planning session were James Ducote of the State Office of Economic Development, newly appointed Cameron Parish Economic Development Director Julie Benoit, Parish Administrator Tina Horn, police jurors, parish businessmen and women, and other community leaders.

Professional facilitator Tom Hatfield led the group through a series of exercises designed to identify Cameron Parish's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.

They identified five priority areas of action for the economic development groups to focus on. They are:

- * Develop a port system for specific industries

- * Identify available property for business, industrial and residential development.

- * Seek funding for a tunnel or bridge for the Calcasieu ship channel.

- * Work to secure a seafood processing facility.

- * Identify opportunities for spinoff businesses from LNG industry.

Other ideas suggested were: more aggressive marketing of the parish, developing recreational tourism facilities and businesses, developing industrial parks, pursuing a state park, holding programs for small businesses, seeking more educational opportunities for the work force, identifying possible spinoffs from the gaming industry, and pursuing a government facility for homeland security.

Swift, Ducote, and Benoit will now have a sense of the most pressing needs of the parish and the direction they should take to address those needs.

Hamilton will assemble all the comments from the group into a report, to be sent to participants in the near future.

Grand Lake to get first fiber optic network here

Cameron Communications has selected Grand Lake to become the first community to receive an all fiber optic voice, data and video network.

Cameron Communications kicks off the large-scale fiber to the home (FTTH) build out this week when construction begins on a new fiber optic network, providing the most advanced services available in southwest Louisiana.

FTTH will feature Internet access with speeds up to 3.0 Mbps, digital television with over 150 channels and telephone services with local calling to Lake Charles and all of Cameron Parish.

Cameron Communications

selected the community of Grand Lake to receive digital services via fiber optics. Approximately 1,600 businesses and residences will have access to fiber at the end of the 3-phase deployment schedule.

Matt Montgomery has been named as the new Project Manager. "FTTH technology offers the most advanced communications infrastructure available today," said Montgomery.

"Cameron's FTTH initiative will provide superior telephony and data services compared with current service operators in the area."

Cameron Communications is locally owned and operated,

Arrest made for fishing violations

While working under a Joint Enforcement Agreement with the National Marine Fisheries Service, agents from the Special Investigations Unit of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Enforcement Division initiated charges on Qui Van Tran, 26, of Cameron, for allegedly taking over the limit of cobia and violating federal law by taking red snapper without a required federal permit and taking red snapper in closed season.

On July 2, agents boarded the fishing vessel Richard II at Cameron Fish House in Cameron. Upon inspection of the vessel, agents discovered a hidden compartment used to allegedly smuggle red snapper. The compartment was found to contain 11 cobia weighing 228 pounds and 1,343 pounds of red snapper.

It was determined through interviews with the captain and crew that a four-member crew was on board during the fishing trip. Louisiana law allows the sale of two cobia per licensed commercial fisherman aboard a commercial vessel.

Upon further investigation it was discovered the vessel had no valid class 1 red snapper permit allowing the captain to catch and sell red snapper. It was also determined that the captain had started fishing prior to the opening of the July red snapper season.

The penalty for over the limit of cobia is a fine of up to \$350, jail for not more than 60 days, or both plus court costs. Penalties for taking red snapper without a federal permit, a violation of the Magnuson Stevens Act, are fines of up to \$120,000 per day per count.

Agents participating in the case were Sgt. Jay Diez and Sr. Agent Billy Gomillion.

Meeting set

A public meeting will be held at the Cameron Parish Police Jury building on Wednesday, July 28 called by the Corps of Engineer to receive comments on the draft programmatic Environmental Impact Statement and draft the Louisiana Coastal Area, Louisiana-Ecosystem Restoration Study.

The meeting will begin at 6 p.m.

A copy of the Impact Statement can be found in the Cameron Parish Library or located on the web at: <http://www.lea.gov>.

The Blessing of the Fleet is an old tradition based on the fisherman's love for "MADONNA" the queen of the universe and the star of the sea. They ask for help and protection for the fishing Fleet season.

providing local telephone, long distance, digital television and Internet service.

Cameron Communications will begin offering FTTH to the Grand Lake community during the fourth quarter of 2004.

Co-op members to get refunds

A crowd of over 750 people, including more than 379 registered Jefferson Davis Electric Co-op (JDEC) members attending their annual membership meeting July 12 in the Jennings High School auditorium, heard Louisiana Public Service Commissioner Dale Sittig praise the Co-op board's effective leadership and congratulate them for "having the lowest electric rates and most reliable service in southwest Louisiana."

The membership also re-elected three directors, heard encouraging reports about system improvements and were told most of them were qualified to receive a credit on their August or September bills.

District 4 Public Service Commissioner Dale Sittig

who has represented consumers in 18 southwest Louisiana parishes for over 20 years commended the consumer-elected Jefferson Davis board of directors for its work in solving the Cajun Electric bankruptcy in a manner that insured consumers received millions of dollars in refunds or bill credits in 2000, 2002 and 2004. Qualified JDEC members will receive their final credit in that process on electric bills during August or September, 2004. Sittig stressed the greatest benefit consumers got out of the Cajun settlement were long-term, low-cost, stable wholesale power costs that have resulted in some of the lowest electric bills in the region and which are expected to continue

through this decade.

Sittig praised the Co-op for continuing system improvements and recognized the Co-op employees for their rapid, professional response to outages in all kinds of weather. Sittig reported getting fewer calls about service problems from Jefferson Davis Electric members than any other utility consumers in his district.

He recalled that non-profit electric Co-ops were created 66 years ago to serve areas ignored by power companies and they continue to promote local economic growth, noting that while electricity is commonly taken for granted, it's vital to our way of life. He added that while nearly all other commodities and ser

Cont. on Page 5.

THE RECENTLY completed pavilion at the Jetty Pier Park in Cameron will be dedicated at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 7 as part of a full day of activities, including blessing of the fleet, bands, fun, food and fishing rodeo. The pavilion is shown at the right and the restroom is in the building on the right. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Big events slated here on Aug. 7th



BRIGHTLY DECORATED fishing boats such as the above will take part in the Blessing of the Fleet which will kick off the Cameron Salt Water Fishing Rodeo on Saturday, Aug. 7 at 10 a.m. at the Cameron Jetty Fishing Pier 2.

Saturday, Aug. 7 will be a big day in Cameron when a new facility is dedicated, a blessing of the fleet is held and a salt water fishing rodeo is conducted. Events will begin at 10 a.m. with a flag ceremony.

The Blessing of the Fleet, the first one held in a few years, will be held in front of the Jetty Fishing Pier, which is located at the end of Davis road south of Cameron.

Owners of all types of vessels--fishing, oil service, pleasure--are invited to decorate their boats and have them blessed as they pass in review. Trophies will be given for the most beautiful and most original decorated boats.

Boat owners may participate in the Blessing of the Fleet by signing up at the Cameron Chamber of Commerce office.

The pavilion at the Jetty Pier Park then will be dedicated. The pavilion, which provides cover for picnickers, fishermen and bird lovers, is the latest addition to the Jetty Park facilities, which also includes the fishing pier, RV hookups and restrooms.

The 40 by 60 foot pavilion was funded by a Rural Development Grant awarded by the Governor's Office and secured through the efforts of Senator Gerald Theunissen and Rep. Dan Flavin.

At 10:30 a.m. food and craft booths will be opened around the park and there will be fun day activities for children.

Several bands will play at the pavilion throughout the day until 9 p.m.

A salt water fishing rodeo will be in progress throughout the day with the weigh station opening at 11 a.m. and concluding at 4 p.m.

Fishing categories include speckled trout, redfish, flounder, black drum, croaker, garfish, sheephead and gafftop catfish. A most unusual fish prize also will be given.

The fishing award ceremony will be held at 4 p.m.

No ice chests will be allowed as food and beverages will be on sale.

Holly Beach featured in Picayune 2-page spread

A two-page feature story along with photos was published on Holly Beach in the travel section of the Times Picayune on Sunday, June 11.

Written by Mary Tutwiler of New Iberia, the article quotes one beach resident as saying: "It ain't really the end of the world, but you can see it from here."

The article mentions Bobby Charles, who wrote "Walking to New Orleans" and came to Holly Beach to get away from the crowds.

It also tells about Donald Brent Chancey, an embezzler wanted by the FBI, who spent four quite months holed up in Holly Beach in 1998 before he killed himself.

The author also recalls Hurricane Audrey which completely destroyed Holly Beach in 1957 and killed about 500 people.

Photos of the beach itself covered with seaweed are also

included, but the author points out that often the beach water is very beautiful.

The article gives a partial list of beach accommodations, eating places and things to do beside swimming.

All in all, the article gives a positive outlook on Holly Beach.

Swim camp is offered

A competition swim camp for youths ages 8-14 will be held Monday-Friday, July 26-29 at the Cameron Recreation Center. Classes are free and will be from 8 a.m. to noon.

Registration ends July 24. Competition day is Saturday, July 31.

For more information call the Center at 775-5081 or 775-2861.

Correction

The outline under the picture of Deputy Tammy Gaspard in last week's Pilot was in error. It should have stated that she is the first female patrol officer in the department in the last 24 years.



DENNIS TRAHAN with Cameron Communications recently presented a framed print of "Lighting the Way on the Calcasieu" by Suzy Trahan to the Cameron Parish School Board. Shown above, from left, were: Loston McEvers, Dot LaBove, president of the Bus Drivers' Association; Dot Theriot, Clifton Morris, Dennis Trahan, Rachel Abadie, Pat Howerton and Dwayne Sanner accepted the print from Trahan. Board member Marvin Trahan was absent for the presentation. "Lighting the Way on the Calcasieu" graces the cover of the 2004 User Friendly Phone Book.



PICTURED ABOVE at a three day training seminar in New Orleans on handling elderly abuse cases were, from left: William Daigle, Cameron D.A. Office Victim Coordinator; Det. Milton Collins, Cameron S.O.; Det. Christopher Savoie, Cameron S.O.; and District Attorney Cecil Sanner

Officials attend training seminar on Elderly Abuse

Cameron Parish Law Enforcement officials attended a three day training seminar in New Orleans on July 12-14. The training was designed for prosecutors, law enforcement officials, and victim advocates. Topics discussed during the seminar included "Dynamics of Abuse Against the Elderly and Disabled Adults", "Louisiana Laws Pertaining to Crimes Against the Elderly," and "Law Enforcement Case Building."

Guest speakers included various law enforcement officials from around the country, a Deputy District Attorney from San Diego, Calif., and representatives from various Louisiana elderly social services. The attendees received training on how to investigate elderly physical and financial abuse, how to prosecute elderly crimes, and what agencies

should be contacted when elder abuse occurs.

Those attending from the Cameron Parish District Attorney's Office were Cecil R. Sanner, District Attorney and William J. Daigle, Victim Assistance Coordinator.

Also in attendance were representatives from the Cameron Parish Sheriff's Department, Detective Christopher Savoie and Detective Milton Collins. Det. Savoie and Det. Collins are already certified as Elderly Service Officers (E.S.O.) To receive the designation of E.S.O. an individual must receive over 40 hours of special training.

If you or someone you know is a victim of elder abuse, please contact the Cameron Parish Sheriff's Department at 775-5111 or Office of the District Attorney at 775-5713.

Lagniappe Two Retirement Home Living Notes

By Geneva Griffith



The weatherman has promised us cooler weather, and I for one will welcome it, and so will Beau, my dog, so we can again enjoy our daily walk around the village.

Two of my new friends and I enjoyed coffee and beignets at the new Coffeecall restaurant this week, located in the same mall as the new huge Wal-Mart. The beignets are a form of doughnut, such as those found in New Orleans French Market. They are loaded with powdered sugar and calories.

I finally got an invitation to attend church Sunday morning, and attended University Baptist, close to LSU. I have had several offers, but this time there was an offer of a car ride too. I had to sell my car when I lost my

eye in a fall.

Afterward we had an invitation to have lunch in a barbecue restaurant, Sonny's Barbecue. I am getting quite used to trying out different restaurants.

The daily rains have really been good for my flower beds. They are blooming like crazy.

Did I tell you that my next door neighbor is also named Geneva, Geneva Puschka? We bonded as soon as I met her. She has lived here around ten years.

Cajun Caesar Wrap

1/2 cup fat-free Caesar salad dressing
 4 10-inch fat-free flour tortillas (plain or colored)
 4 curly leaf lettuce leaves
 8 slices (4 ounces) sliced Swiss cheese
 2 cooked chicken breast cutlets, diced (about 2 cups)-or use leftover chicken
 1 teaspoon Cajun seasoning or more, to taste
 1 cup shredded (packaged) coleslaw
 1 cup chopped tomato
 2 tablespoons finely diced red onion
 Spread 2 tablespoons dressing on each tortilla. Top each with a lettuce leaf and 2 slices Swiss cheese. Toss chicken with Cajun seasoning. Divide evenly among tortillas along with coleslaw, tomato and onion. Roll up. To serve, cut each rolled wrap in half diagonally. Serves 4.

Evangelist to speak

Evangelist David McDonald will speak at two area churches this weekend. He was born in South Africa and now lives in Australia.

He will speak at the River of Live Church in Carlyss at 7 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, July 23 and 24 and at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 25.

He will speak at the Bayou Lighthouse in Johnson Bayou at 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 25.

For more information call Rev. Denny Vincent at 558-5640 or Debby Griffith at 569-2571.



PICTURED AT their wedding in Las Vegas on June 10 were Staffon Richard of Little Chenier and Betsy Hebert of Lake Charles. The groom is the son of LeRoy and Fay Richard of Iowa and the bride is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Hebert. Brittney Hebert was the maid of honor and Mathew Guillory was the best man. The couple will make their home in Little Chenier.

Vacation tip

Tip #5: Plan your route. Visit www.seeamerica.org for suggested itineraries and driving routes to most of the major U.S. national parks and

their most popular attractions. This site offers suggested driving plans that include the most scenic park routes, where to eat, what to do, the most popular trails, and more for visits that range from a few hours to a few days.

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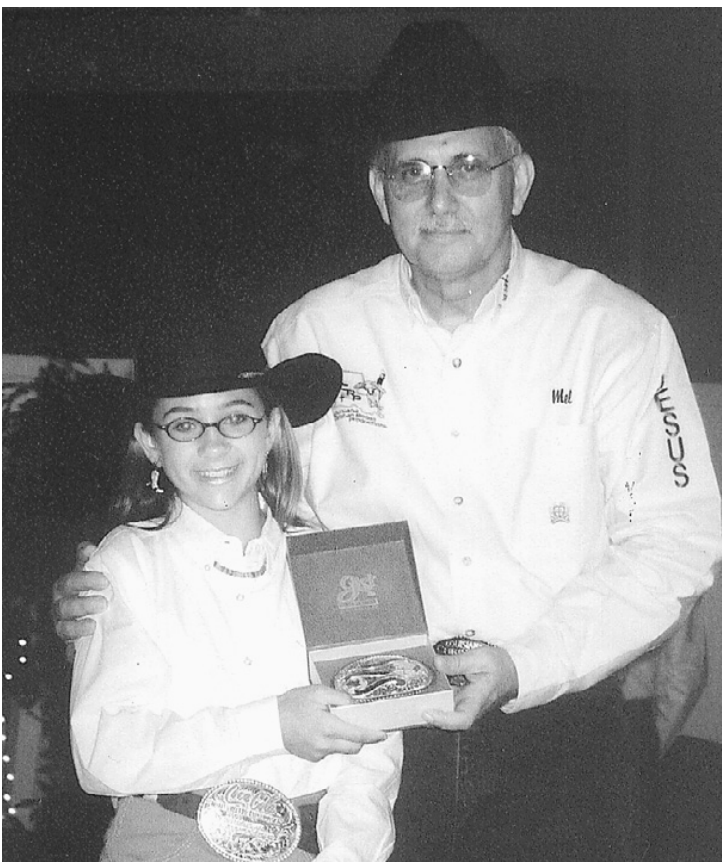


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Special thanks to Harley-Davidson of Lake Charles for all their assistance. Harley-Davidson Motor Company is not endorsing, sponsoring, or otherwise affiliated with this promotion.



KALLAN MUDD won over \$350 and the title of Reserve Champion junior barrel racer at the end of the 2003-04 Louisiana Christian Rodeo series. The series consisted of four rodeos. Kallan competed in three of the four rodeos, winning first place in all three. She missed the January rodeo while attending the Fur Festival in Cameron and attending her duties as Deb Miss Cameron Parish. She is shown being presented the reserve champion belt buckle by Mel Estess, president of the Louisiana Christian Rodeo Association. Kallan is the 11-year-old daughter of Lance and Kelly Mudd of Sweet Lake.

Cameron Outdoors

By LOSTON MCEVERS



CAMERON SALTWATER RODEO

It's been a good week for fishing. Early morning fishing for bass has been the best, and late afternoon has been producing nice fish.

I made a trip to the Big Burn this week and hit a small area with real nice bass. I had one over five pounds that I released, but did catch two that went over three pounds and quite a few over two pounds. These are tournament fish, but when tournament time comes, they're hard to come by.

The Miami's Amoco Field is still producing nice bass. Water is still up in most areas, but running water will produce bass. Spinner baits and worms have been the answer, but I did real well on crankbaits, shallow-diving crankbaits.

The saltwater fishing has held on, despite lots of fresh water running down, as well as dirty water. Lots of 1 to 3 pound speckle trout are in Calcasieu Lake. Redfish are at the marsh outlets, and you'll catch a few flounder at the old Jetties, right against the rocks.

There's good catches of redfish on Rockefeller Refuge around Little Constance Bayou.

RODEO RESULTS

The annual Dugas Landing Fourth of July Rodeo had good results again this year, however most leaving the Hackberry landing had to cope with dirty water and thunderstorms.

The first place speckle trout went to Ken Kelly with a 4 pounder. Second place winner was Dale Weeman with a 3 pound 8 ounce trout.

The largest redfish was 28 pounds 8 ounces, caught by Gary Viator, while second place went to Russell Burleson, 28 pounds, 6 ounces, this being very close, by two ounces.

The flounder division winner was Johnny LeDoux with a 2 pound, 2 ounce flounder, and second place went to Derick Gholston with a 2 pounder.

The largest fish of the rodeo was a 31 pound 8 ounce black drum, caught by Mike Kelly.

The grand prize drawing winner was Ken Kelly.

GIBBSTOWN DOGFIGHT

The week 12 Gibbstown Dogfight had 19 boats entered. J. M. Boudreaux and Richard Duhon had 3 bass weighing 6.74 pounds. Trey Wilkerson and Chance Baccigalopi had 3 bass weighing 5.31 pounds and also the first place largest bass of 3.07 pounds. Cody Benton and Cody McDaniels had three bass that hit the scales at 5.05 pounds, and captured the second place largest bass money, with three fish weighing 2.77 pounds.

Trey Wilkerson's first place largest bass was caught on a spinnerbait. This weeks top teams were fishing the lake.

CAMERON RODEO

The Cameron Parish Chamber of Commerce and the Cameron Lions Club will co-sponsor a Saltwater Fishing Rodeo at the Cameron Jetty Pier in Cameron on Saturday, Aug. 7. Fishing will begin at 12:01 a.m. and weigh-in at the Cameron Jetty Pier will be at 4 p.m. sharp. Anglers need to be there by that time.

There will be two divisions, senior, 15 years old or older; and junior, 14 years and younger. Entry fee for seniors is \$30 and juniors is \$15 per person. This will entitle entrant to fish the following categories: speckle trout, redfish, flounder, black drum, sheephead, croaker, gafftop catfish, garfish and the most unusual fish.

The top three largest fish in each category, except the most unusual fish, in both senior and junior divisions will receive either a trophy or plaque.

The purchaser of a rodeo ticket will be eligible for door prizes drawn after the weigh-in.

Prize money totaling \$1500 will be given away to several lucky winners. There will be a "fish money wheel" for awarding prize money. There will be awards for outstanding female angler, male angler, and junior angler.

All public fishing waters in Cameron Parish and its adjacent Gulf of Mexico waters up to three miles from shore; all of Calcasieu Lake and Calcasieu River system, up to the saltwater barrier, and all of Sabine Lake will be legal to fish.

The onshore activities will begin with flag raising at 10 a.m. Blessing of the Fleet, Jetty Pier and Pavilion dedication will be at 11 a.m. There will be local bands, good food, and activities for the children. There will be a \$1 per person charge to enter festival grounds.

Check your local stores and marinas for rules and registration forms. Next week we'll have more on the "fish money wheel," rules, and regulations.

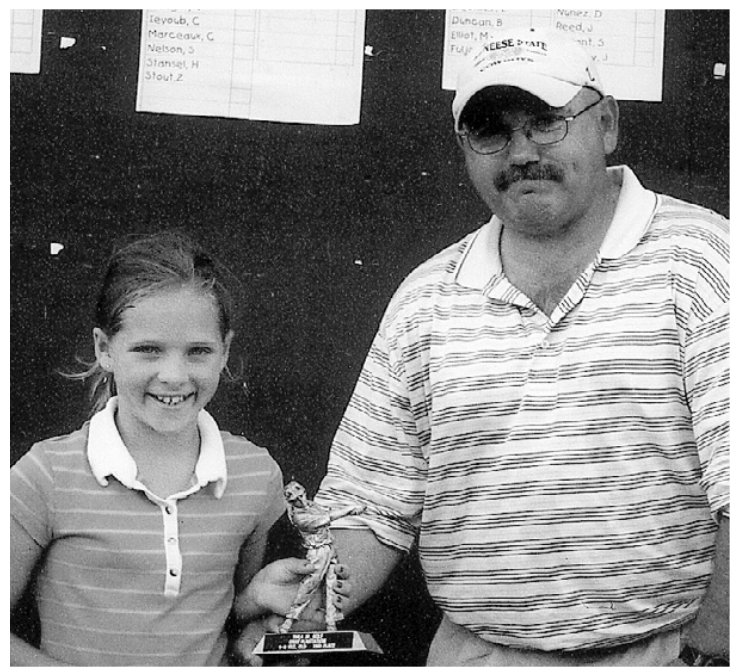
Shrimper laws told on internet

Since they were first developed, Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) and Bycatch Reduction Devices (BRDs), and the laws governing their use have changed several times. Although commercial shrimpers use both as required in their trawl nets, many have had difficulty finding all of the information necessary to comply with the laws associated with their use. Louisiana Sea Grant has added a new section to its fisheries web site to address this need. At www.seagrant.fish.lsu.edu, an entire section, reviewed by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) and approved for publication, has been added.

The new section includes diagrams with dimensions for all approved TEDs and BRDs used in Gulf of Mexico or South Atlantic waters, background and identification information on sea turtles, and links to many official sites with additional TEDs and BRDs information.

Basic questions about the gear are answered in an easy to understand Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) format, and archives of official documents provide background on the evolution of the TEDs and BRDs laws as well as issues surrounding their use.

Because NOAA Fisheries continues to study the effectiveness associated with the use of TEDs and BRDs, changes in the laws or approved designed are probable in the future. Through this web site, Louisiana Sea Grant will make every effort to provide the most current information.



MARLIE MUDD, 9, of Sweet Lake, won second place at a golf tournament held at Gray Plantation in Lake Charles on June 29. She competed in the 9 - 11 year old girls division. She is shown above being presented the second place trophy by Floyd Stains, director of the Southwest Louisiana Junior Golf Association. She is the daughter of Lance and Kelly Mudd of Sweet Lake.

W. W. meeting date changed

Cameron Parish Waterworks District No. 10, serving the Johnson Bayou and Holly Beach area, will have their next monthly meeting on Tuesday, Aug. 3, instead of Tuesday, Aug. 10, at 6:15 p.m.

Hunter Ed course set

A Hunter Education Course will be held in Creole August 27 - 28 at the Creole Fire Station, 184 East Creole Hwy.

Contact Mary Hebert at 538-2276 or 491-2593. You must be preregistered to enter the class.

Voters may be removed

A list of 297 inactive registered voters of Cameron Parish can be found elsewhere in this issue of the Pilot.

Voters who have left the parish or changed addresses must appear at the Registrar's office by Nov. 2 to

verify their correct addresses or they will be removed from the voting rolls, according to Suzanne Sturlese, registrar.

For more information call the registrar's office at 775-5493. The Registrar's office is located on the bottom floor of the courthouse.

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Dance at...
Fredman's of Creole
Friday, July 23 - 9 p.m. - 1 a.m.
— Featuring Music By —
Guy Theriot, Abe Manuel & The Honky Tonk Band
Cover Charge

SH/LA 82 CAUSEWAY BRIDGE AT SABINE LAKE COMMUNITY MEETING

The Beaumont District of the Texas Department of Transportation invites you to view and discuss options regarding the replacement of the SH/LA 82 Causeway bridge. The meeting agenda includes a presentation to be followed by an Open House. Your comments and questions are welcomed.



When: Thursday, July 29, 2004 6 to 8 PM

Where: The Palms at Pleasure Island Golf Course Club House, 1901 TB Ellison

If requested, reasonable accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities in accordance with ADA, 1990. For more information contact TxDOT at 409-898-5793.



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Rep. Frith explains new bill that promotes mariculture

King Neptune would be curious, and, if mariculture makes its imprint on Louisiana's Gulf Coastal waters, so will King Midas.

Mariculture, broadly defined as the cultivation of the sea, has only just begun to establish itself in Louisiana's vocabulary. But the success for mariculture in other countries has local researchers and others convinced that discarded oil platforms in the Gulf have enormous potential to become cornerstones of new and lucrative Louisiana industries.

Some of these possible ventures include commercial fish and shellfish cultivation, electricity production using thermal energy conversion, wind and other renewable energy systems, and mineral extraction. Discarded platforms can be developed to create new sources for pharmaceutical, cosmetics, nutrition and medical agents.

Blue water platforms create complex coral reef ecosystems that would otherwise not exist, and which produce, rather than just attract, fish. These platforms can also be used as artificial reefs, advanced sustainable fishery systems, coral and live rock mariculture units, fish nursery grounds and other related enterprises.

State Rep. Mickey Frith, D-Abbeville, said that HCR 176, which establishes the Mariculture Task Force, will enable the state to explore the feasibility of developing these new, unique offshore indus-

tries in the Gulf of Mexico using existing offshore platform structures.

"The possibilities are staggering," Rep. Frith said. "With a little ingenuity, we will be looking at a whole new, untapped source of industrial development with thousands of jobs right at the end of our nose. The task force needs citizens' ideas and input to develop these new offshore industries."

Department of Natural Resources marine scientist Steve Kolian, who is working with the task force said, "Developing the retired platforms could potentially create hundreds of thousands of new jobs and generate billions of dollars in economic impacts for Louisiana. Japan, Norway, Russia and Ireland have employed offshore platform industries for decades. Many of their platforms were built specifically for mariculture industry," Kolian said. "And mariculture offshore industries will employ far more people than oil and gas," Kolian added.

House Concurrent Resolution 176 established the Platforms for Mariculture Task Force to explore the economic feasibility, viability, sustainability, and benefits of establishing an offshore mariculture industry in the Gulf of Mexico.

Rep. Frith said, "I encourage and welcome anyone who wants their ideas heard to contact me at my district offices at 337-893-5035 or 337-643-2381. To contact

CO-OP REFUND Cont. from Page 1

vices have increased in cost, JDEC's rates have gone down.

Co-op Board President Eugene C. Todd of Welsh welcomed the members and their families to the meeting, announcing over 6,800 official notices were sent to the membership for the 2004 annual meeting.

Todd presented the President's Report, noting Jeff Davis Electric, established 66 years ago, continued to grow and offers "the best service at the lowest possible cost. Your employees deserve your respect for the excellent job they do in maintaining a safe and reliable distribution system. We stress good technology at Jeff Davis Electric, but when you call us, you'll speak to a real, local person, not a machine or someone in a distant city."

During the meeting, incumbent directors from districts 1, 4 and 7, running without opposition, were re-elected. Re-elected from District 1 was Joseph L. Tupper, Jr. of Elton; District 4, Richard J. Byler of Lake Arthur, and District 7, Charles S. Hackett, Bell City.

Also serving on the Jefferson Davis Electric board of directors are E. Scott Henry, Robert P. Sarver, Claude Breaux, Eugene C. Todd, E. Garner Nunez and Webster James Todd, Jr.

In his report to the members, Co-op Manager Mike Heinen noted that Jeff Davis Electric continues to make system improvements to reduce "blinks" and outages, helping the Co-op remain among the most reliable utility systems operating in Louisiana.

Heinen praised the hard work, professionalism and dedicated performance of the Co-op's employees working out of offices in Jennings and Cameron.

"With lightning, hurricanes and so many fast-growing trees to deal with in Louisiana, it's impossible to achieve perfect reliability," Heinen explained. "But we've invested millions of dollars in new poles, lines and facilities which will benefit our consumers." He also noted the Co-op has made modifications to its lines in the Cameron area to deal with problems caused by salt accumulation on hardware.

Heinen stressed JDEC hasn't had a rate increase since 1989 and reminded the membership that the Co-op's 44 full-time employees do an outstanding job. The manager then asked members to cooperate whenever Co-op crews ask to trim trees on their property in order to prevent future outages.

Board Secretary-treasurer Joseph L. Tupper, Jr. presented the financial report which was included in printed material provided to members as they registered for the meeting, noting the Co-op's total assets came to \$30,847,928 with revenues totaling \$15,532,349 in 2003. Capital credits and patronage dividends totaled \$646,499. In a break down of expenses, wholesale power came in on top at \$14,998,763 with operating costs of \$3,948,909. Taxes were \$470,441; depreciation came to \$919,919, and interest expenses were \$631,617.

The meeting closed with the awarding of 23 door prizes and two bikes to children who attended the meeting with their parents.

Steve Kolian of DNR's Technology Assessment Division call 225-219-9716."

For more information on the environmental aspects of offshore ecosystems go to: <http://www.towersoflife.com/ecorlgs/>.

McNeese Honor Roll

McNeese State University has announced its Honor roll for the spring semester.

The students are: **CAMERON:** Christopher Ryan Billings, Jennifer Diane Conner, Nandi Lynn DeSonnier, Tess Alixandra Dimas, Jeremy Wayne Furs, Melissa Rene Este Guidry, Jessica Lynn Murphy, Shantelle L. Lancon Richard, Lacey D. Rodrigue, John

Leonidas Snyder;

GRAND CHENIER: Ashley Michelle Kelley, Garry Joseph Primeaux, Jr., Lyndi Rachelle Stewart, Justin Seth Swire, Travis Raphael Swire, Julie Ann Trahan;

HACKBERRY: Meagan Elizabeth Broussard, Lindy Sue Delome, Trevor Lee Duhon, Ashley Marie Granger, Miranda Marie Hicks, Haley Susan LaBove, Michael John Orgeron, Lori L. Sanders, and Micah Aaron Silver.

McNeese Freshman Fair told Cooling tips

McNeese State University will host a Freshman Fair for high school freshmen from 9 a.m.-noon Aug. 6 in Stokes Auditorium of Hardtner Hall, located on the corner of Sale Road and Common Street.

College representatives from around the state will be available to meet and answer questions from students and their parents.

The fair will also provide information about the TOPS Scholarship Program, financial aid and admission requirements for state universities.

Space is limited to one student and a guest and reservations are required. For more information or to reserve a spot, call the McNeese Office of Enrollment Information at 475-5505 or 1-800-622-3352 ext. 5505.

(NAPSA)-Don't sweat high-energy bills this summer. To help you stay cool without heating up your energy bill, consider the following tips. Use them to save money and energy all summer long.

- Close doors and vents to rooms you don't use.
- Keep blinds closed during the day.

- Shade air conditioners from direct sun to reduce their workload. Don't block airflow.

- Install a programmable thermostat to control the temperature and lower it when you return.

- Replace aging equipment with an Energy Star qualified central air conditioner to increase energy efficiency.

- Keep the exterior unit free of debris. Keep plants and shrubs three feet away from the unit.

- Turn your air conditioner off during electrical storms.

McNeese tuition fees due Aug. 16

Students who have enrolled and registered for McNeese State University's fall semester have until 4 p.m. Aug. 16 to pay tuition fees. Fall classes begin Aug. 18.

Fee payments may be made online at www.mcneese.edu through Web for Students, in person at the cashier's office located in Smith Hall, mailed to Administrative Accounting, Box 92935, Lake Charles, LA 70609 or placed in the drop box located on the north side of Smith Hall. If payment is mailed, students should be sure to include the top portion of the fee bill with check, credit card authorization or financial aid/scholarship authorization form.

All paid fee receipts, whether mailed or paid in person, can be picked up from the cashier's office. Students who fail to meet the fee payment deadline will lose all registered classes, must register again during late registration and pay a \$50 late registration fee.

For more information about fees, call 475-5107 or toll free at 1-800-622-3352, ext. 5107.



Thank You,

The Cameron Parish Library would like to thank Freddie and Dot Theriot of Grand Chenier for the beautiful daylilies they donated to help beautify the grounds of the Hackberry & Johnson Bayou Libraries.

The Cameron Pilot

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Ladies and Gentlemen of Cameron Parish,

Three weeks on the job - and I'm excited to be here! Our transition has gone smoothly and I plan to provide you with the Sheriff's Department and service that you deserve. As I said while campaigning, I chose to be a resident of Cameron Parish and the more I go around the Parish the more I know that I made the right decision. I love Cameron Parish and her people.

As you have read in the paper, I have named Ron Johnson as my Chief Deputy. Ron's law enforcement and public relations experience will be a great asset to the Sheriff's Department. Nearly every deputy employed by Sheriff Savoie was given the opportunity to serve with me. Those who retired have been replaced by moving qualified deputies into new positions. I will be available to you when you have needs and am here to talk over any problems you may be having. Feel free to call on me.

As your new Sheriff I have plans to continue providing the 24 hour patrol, service and protection you have been accustomed to. I also have plans to improve service with new technology and fight to rid our parish of drug problems. As administrator of the finances of the Sheriff's Department, I know that first we must make sure that the revenues are secure. This brings me to our first order of business. . .

It's been five years and it's time to renew the Special Law Enforcement taxes to run the Sheriff's Department. The taxes on the ballot on September 18th will be a renewal of the 8.00M and 2.00M Special L.E. Taxes. I know it's a bad time to talk about taxes because of the reassessment of the value of properties over the parish, but we need to renew these taxes to continue to maintain law enforcement in Cameron Parish.

In order to get this tax issue on the September 18th ballot, we had to initiate the process with a Board meeting during Sheriff Savoie's last week in office. This allows me to present this renewal to you and still have the opportunity to run it again.

These taxes are very important to the Parish and Sheriff's Department as a whole, as it generates not quite 1/2 of what we operate on to be able to offer 24 hour patrol in our communities for all areas. Renewal of these two taxes is vital to continue and maintain the type of law enforcement you are getting now and provide for growth with new technology.

I know with the new reassessment year many will be hit hard. The Legislature sets the 11.41M tax for us to operate and years ago Sheriff Savoie saw the need to run these additional taxes as needed to improve salaries and service. The need is even greater now. With what's going on in the world today and the types of businesses and crises that can arise in our parish, we must try to maintain as good law enforcement as possible.

Remember that these two taxes - 8.00M and 2.00M - are renewal taxes. I have chosen not to increase them and run them for only 5 years. These taxes are needed to maintain the Sheriff's Department - they are not additional funds - but the funds necessary to keep 24 hour patrol, maintain salaries and provide for the ever increasing cost of insurances and skyrocketing costs of running vehicles 24-7-365.

I have confidence that you will support our taxes so that we can provide you with the service and protection needed.

Sincerely,

THEOS DUHON
SHERIFF & EX-OFFICIO TAX COLLECTOR

