



JULIE BENOIT was recently named Economic Development Director for Cameron Parish.

The Cameron Parish

Pilot

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35¢



Parish assessments explained by Conner

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

Property tax assessments were the center of attention at the Cameron Parish Police Jury's agenda meeting on Monday. Parish Assessor Bobby Conner was on hand to explain to the jury the method used to arrive at the recently released property tax assessments and the timetable for review and protest.

Conner explained that reassessments are required at least every four years by state law and that the Louisiana Tax Commission has been pressured by the Legislative Auditor to take an intense review of all assessments. This extra scrutiny is largely due to a history of lax assessments in the New Orleans and Baton Rouge areas.

The method of determining an individual's assessment is also provided by law. Conner explained that the method of determining fair market value includes reviewing all recent sales and successions of property in each area and applying those values to the remaining properties.

He said only comparable properties are rated the same. For example, a different rate would be used for waterfront houses than for houses two

streets away from the water, and brick, vinyl siding, and wood sided houses have different rates.

After that, a value is set per square foot. Conner showed jurors where this method is prescribed by law.

The law also sets out the method for appeal of these assessments. After the assessment lists are approved by the Legislative Auditor, they will be open for public inspection for 15 days, between August 15 and September 15.

This exposure will be advertised. Anyone may come in and review their information during that time, and if they disagree with anything, may file an appeal giving their reasons.

The assessor may make changes to the list during the exposure period. Within three days after the final exposure date, the lists are sent to the Board of Review.

The Police Jury is required by law to sit as a Board of Review to hear further appeals within a 10 day period beginning five days later. Persons must fill out a written appeal on the form provided by the Assessor and present it

Cont. on Page 2.

Causeway bridge old, may be replaced

By **CHRISTINE RAPPLEYE**

(The Beaumont Enterprise)

The swinging days of the Sabine Lake Causeway Bridge that connects Texas and Louisiana could be numbered.

Texas Department of Transportation engineers are proposing to build a taller bridge than the flat swing bridge, said Marc Shepherd, department spokesman.

"All of the options involve a higher bridge," Shepherd said of the results of a feasibility study.

One option is to build the new bridge behind the S.G.S. Causeway Bait and Tackle shop. Another is to put it near the present location, he said in a phone interview.

And, of course, they could always do nothing to the bridge, he said.

"It's deteriorating," Sherry Schwarznau said of the bridge in an interview earlier this month.

Schwarznau and her husband, Herb, own and manage the bait shop and live above it.

"The big trucks aren't doing the bridge any good," Schwarznau said of the traffic

she sees coming and going from the bridge.

Right now the engineers don't know how high the bridge needs to go," Shepherd said.

The project is still in planning stages, and it would be several years before construction starts.

The transportation department is having an open house at the Palms on Pleasure Island golf course clubhouse from 6 to 8 p.m. Thursday, July 29, for people to see the preliminary plans and ask questions, Shepherd said.

"There's a lot of history behind that bridge," Shepherd said, beginning with its opening Oct. 25, 1958.

Jefferson County owned half of the 32 pre-stressed concrete spans and Louisiana's Cameron Parish owned the other half, according to The Enterprise archives.

Texas and Louisiana now each own half of the bridge, which has a 32-foot diameter concrete cap under the center of the bridge to allow it to swivel open so boats can get in and out of Sabine Lake.

It's one of the few swing bridges left in the state, according to Shepherd. Two others are in the Bridge City and Deweyville areas.



A BLESSING of the Fleet ceremony will be held Saturday, August 7 in connection with a salt water fishing rodeo to be held at the Jetty Fishing Pier Park in Cameron. The above photo of a decorated boat was taken at a Fleet Blessing held here a few years ago.

Fishing Rodeo will benefit local groups

The Cameron Parish Chamber of Commerce and the Cameron Lions Club are sponsoring a Fishing Rodeo, the dedication of the Cameron Jetty Pavilion along with the Blessing of the Fleet to be held on Saturday, Aug. 7.

All activities will take place at the Cameron Jetty Pier Complex located at the southern end of J. A. Davis Road in Cameron.

There will be food and craft booths, games for the kids, and live bands throughout the day.

Part of the proceeds from this years Fishing Rodeo will benefit the following area clubs and organizations:

The Lions Crippled Children Camp, The Cameron Lions Club Eyeglass Foundation, The Cameron Chamber of Commerce Parish Resource Directory, Cameron

Boy Scout Troop 210, The Cameron Fire Department, South Cameron Elementary Cheerleaders, Cameron Elementary Cheerleaders, Evans P. Mhire Council No. 8324 Knights of Columbus, Cameron Elementary 4-H Club, Cameron Council on Aging and the South Cameron High School Cheerleaders.

Any boater, recreational or commercial, who wants to participate in the Blessing of the Fleet can register at the Cameron Chamber of Commerce in Cameron.

Grand Lake registration

The Grand Lake High School counselor, Rosalie Perry, has announced the following dates in connection with the opening of school on Wednesday, Aug. 11:

Aug. 4-9 a.m.-2 p.m., new student registration. Bring birth certificate, social security card, immunization records and proof of residency.

Aug. 5-9 a.m. to noon. Senior schedule changes.

Aug. 6-9 a.m. to noon. Junior schedule changes.

Hack. school registration

The Hackberry High School registration for all new students for the 2004-2005 school year, grades K-12, will be held Monday, Aug. 2 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon in the principal's office. All students must have a birth certificate, social security number, and up-to-date immunization record.



BARRY BADON and the Bayou Boys, a Cameron Parish-based band, will play at the 15th annual Marshland Festival to be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Lake Charles Civic Center. The band will play from 10:30 to midnight on Saturday. Proceeds from the festival go to various school, church and community organizations in Hackberry. Badon is shown above with the 2004 Railroad Festival Queens.

Marshland Festival to be this weekend

The 15th annual Marshland Festival will held July 30, 31 and August 1 - indoors at the Lake Charles Civic Center

Gates open on Friday at 5 p.m.; Saturday at 11 a.m.; and Sunday at 11 a.m.

Admission for adults is: Friday, \$6 day; Saturday and Sunday, \$7 day; all weekend, \$18. Admission for kids is: 7 - 14 years, \$1 day; 6 & under, free. Parking is free.

The schedule includes:

FRIDAY, JULY 30
6 - 7, Gary Gremillion;
7 - 8:15, Jo-El Sonnier;
8:15 - 9:30, Louisiana Express with T. K. Hulin & G. G. Shinn
9:30 - 10:45, Jo-El Sonnier
10:45 - 12 Midnight, Louisiana Express with T. K. Hulin & G. G. Shinn

SATURDAY - JULY 31
12 Noon - 2, Garrett Justice and The Coullions
2 - 3:15, Louisiana's Kingfish

3:15 - 4:45, Sabine River Band
4:45 - 6, Louisiana's Kingfish
6 - 7:30, Damon Troy and Louisiana Beat
7:30 - 9, Barry Badon and the Bayou Boys
9 - 10:30, Johnny Lee
10:30 - 12 Midnight, Barry Badon and the Bayou Boys

SUNDAY - AUGUST 1
12 Noon - 2, Bayou Katz
2 - 3:15, Blue-Eyed Soul Revue

3:15 - 4:30, Jamie Bergeron and the Kickin' Cajuns
4:30 - 6, Percy Sledge with Blue-Eyed Soul Revue.

The Marshland Festival began as a way to provide funding for various school, church, and community organizations. The Marshland Festival Association Board provides the environment and entertainment needed to draw local and surrounding areas together. The youth groups would have the opportunity to raise the money they needed to support their organizations.

Cameron Parish schools to open on August 11th

Cameron Parish Schools will open on Wednesday, Aug. 11.

However, teachers will report on Monday and Tuesday, Aug. 9 and 10 for professional development days.

Holidays for the 2004-05 school year are as follows: Monday, Sept. 6--Labor Day.

Monday, Oct. 4--Professional Development Day for teachers. (No school.)
Tuesday, Nov. 2--Election Day.

Monday-Friday, Nov. 22-26--Thanksgiving holidays.

Monday, Dec. 20 thru Friday, Dec. 31--Christmas holidays.

Friday, Jan. 7, 2005--Fur Festival.

Monday, Jan. 17--Martin Luther King birthday.

Friday, Jan. 28--District Livestock Show. (No school.)
Monday and Tuesday, Feb. 7 & 8--Mardi Gras holidays.

Friday, March 25 thru Friday, April 1--Good Friday-Easter Holidays.

Monday, April 4--Teachers professional development (no school.)

Friday, May 27--Last day of school.

Jury to honor three persons

The Cameron Parish Police Jury will honor three parish residents at the jury's monthly meeting Monday, Aug. 2 at 5 p.m.

They are Ruby Kelley, who has retired as Cameron Parish Registrar of Voters after 21 years of service; Sara Taylor, who won a state 4-H Honor; and Michelle Mudd, who was recently named Mrs. Louisiana.

Other items on the agenda include several board appointments, advertising for bids on surplus equipment and health insurance renewal.

The jury will also go into executive session to discuss some matter.

Bible school set at H'berry

Vacation Bible School will be held at the Hackberry First Baptist Church Monday through Friday, Aug. 2-6 from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

"Come join our Rickshaw Rally as we race to the Son," a spokesman said.

For more information call 775-2632.



THIS MOBILE HOME in Cameron, belonging to the Delcambre family, was destroyed by fire last Thursday. No one was injured in the fire, which was caused by an electrical short, but the building and contents were a total loss. An account has been set up at Cameron State Bank to assist the family with their needs. The account name is "First Baptist Church benefit for Delcambre Fire Fund." (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



WORK HAS BEGUN in Cameron on a drainage project to help flood water which may become trapped in low lying subdivisions reach the pumping station. The borrow ditch along Hwy 27/82 is being cleaned from School Board road all the way behind Cameron Elementary School to the pumps. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



THE OAK GROVE BAPTIST Church held their Bible School the week of July 12 thru July 16. Shown above is Mrs. Lisa Miller's pre-school class (3 & 4 year old) in front of the castle at the church.

Help Hope offers aid in emergency situations

Help Hope of Cameron is a non profit, non denominational organization that assists needy individuals and families with food and clothing in emergency situations such as fire, unemployment, low income, sickness, etc.

The thrift store, located at 401 Broussard Beach Road, offers clothing, shoes, household items and other necessities for sale at nominal prices. Help Hope receives donations

from area churches, offerings taken at 5th Sunday Singings, area businesses and individuals.

In the past year assistance has been provided to 191 people with food and clothing items.

Thrift store hours are from 8 a.m. to noon Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. The 2nd week of each month the store holds a 25 cent sale and during the

last full week of each month there is a bag sale. Fill a bag with clothes for a set price.

Items sold in the thrift store are donations made by individuals. School uniforms and limited school supplies are available at the store.

For more information, call 775-8136.

Montgomery heads phone co. project

Cameron Communications has named R & D Supervisor Matt Montgomery to head up their new Fiber to the Home (FTTH) initiative.

Montgomery was named Project Manager to oversee the installation of the new fiber optic network to provision FTTH to Cameron's newest service areas.

"Being named project manager of Cameron's first CLEC venture is a challenging and rewarding opportunity," said Montgomery. "We chose Grand Lake to be the first community in Louisiana to enjoy the benefits of FTTH technology such as the highest quality digital television, 3 MB capable Internet access, and local and long distance telephone services all in one unique bundle."

Montgomery joined Cameron Communications in Sept. 2002 as R & D Supervisor. He came from Nortel Networks in Atlanta, Ga. He holds a B.S. in Finance from Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, and a B.S. in Industrial Engineering from Louisiana Tech in Ruston.

Cameron Communications is a locally owned and operated telecommunications company providing local telephone, long distance, digital television and Internet connection. With more than 140 employees, the Cameron Communications family of companies has offered service in Cameron, Johnson Bayou, Grand Chenier, Hackberry, Creole and Carlyss for over 75 years. Cameron Communications will begin offering FTTH to the Grand Lake community later this year.

Birth told

CASEY AMBER SOUTHARD

Robert and Tiffany Southard announce the birth of a daughter, Casey Amber, July 19, 2004 in the Good Shephard Medical Center in Longview, Texas. She weighed 7 lbs., 10 ozs.

Grandparents include Julie and Tony Thompson of Grand Lake.

Great grandparents include Verly and Red Broussard of Grand Lake and Betty Thompson of Laccasine.

Support of troops to be at festival

Join Operation Pelican Pride at the Marshland Festival this weekend for a chance to support local soldiers and a raffle to win a fish fryer.

Operation Pelican Pride will be at the Marshland Festival this weekend, July 30th through August 1st, to gather support for our local soldiers and to raffle a fish fryer to raise funds for various soldier support operations. Tickets cost \$1. The raffle drawing will be held on Sunday, August 1, at the Lake Charles Civic Center grounds. Participants need not be present to win.

The Louisiana National Guard Family Support Group will also be present, selling items such as patriotic ribbons and magnets. Proceeds from sales will benefit operations supporting families of soldiers deployed during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Operation Pelican Pride is non-profit organization founded in support of local military personnel who have been deployed overseas to supplement peace keeping efforts and combat operations. Our organization is made up of retired military personnel, members of local law enforcement agencies, military family members and concerned citizens.

Permits asked for mitigation work in parish

The Lake Arthur Club has applied for a Coastal Use Permit to construct sixty 28-foot wide, 45,600 long terraces as mitigation for future projects.

About 40,533 cubic yards of material will be excavated from borrow ditches adjacent to each terrace. About 109 acres of open water habitat will be impacted as a result of this activity.

The work will be in the Willow Lake area.

Free boating class to be offered here

The Creole Recreation Dist. No. 7 Board is sponsoring a Free Boating Safety Class on Saturday, Aug. 7 at the Creole Multi-Purpose Building. The class will be held from 8 a.m. till 4:30 p.m., and is open to all students 13 years and older.

Anyone born after January 1, 1988 is required to have certification in order to operate a watercraft that is 10 hp or more as well as a wave runner.

Wildlife and Fisheries will be teaching the class. Anyone interested can call Angelia Conner or Regina Jouett at 775-5516 prior to the class to register.



THESE WERE the members of the Cameron NAACP delegation who attended the national NAACP convention in Philadelphia recently.

Cameron NAACP members attend national convention

A delegation from the Cameron NAACP attended the recent national NAACP convention in Philadelphia. They included the following persons:

Mrs. Louise Cole, chapter president, Charles Cole, Margaret McArthur, Paul H. Hypolite, Jr., three students, P. L. McArthur, Nicole L. Colombe and Dartanya K. Colombe, Dallas Smith III, and Rev. Wayne Morris of Port

Arthur.

Adults attended workshops, a luncheon, and the plenary session where Cicely Tison introduced Dick Gregory, who was honored. President Kweisi Mfume was a speaker.

The children attended several workshops and met key people at the convention. They also attended a meeting with John Kerry, who is the Democratic presidential candidate for 2004.

(NAPSA)-If you're ever among the many Americans struggling to lose weight, here are some tips for slimming down:

- Adopt healthy eating patterns. It's not enough to limit calories-the calories you eat should come from a variety of nutrient-rich foods from all food groups. For instance, it's important to try to eat five servings of fruits and vegetables every day.
- Be satisfied with small steps. With any diet or exercise program, you'll probably lose weight very slowly at first. It's important to be patient and be satisfied even with small gains. Don't throw in the towel if you're not getting quick results-losing weight requires a concentrated daily effort.

-The CAMERON PARISH PILOT-
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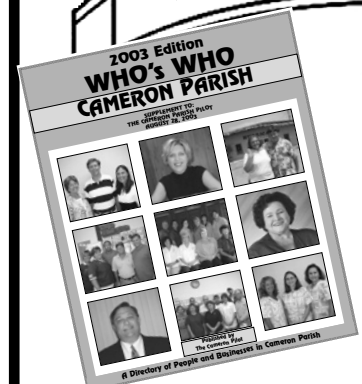
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Happy 2nd
Birthday



Sydney Victoria
Carroll

Love, Mommy,
Daddy &
Dylan (Bubba)

Lagniappe Two Retirement Home Living Notes



By GENEVA GRIFFITH

I went to the bingo games last night with Geneva and Marjorie, two of my neighbors, and we were all winners. Marjorie won three games and Geneva and I each won the blackout game to share the jackpot. Geneva has been living in the Village ten years and Marjorie five. Marjorie loves to play bingo and only leaves her sick husband for the weekly games, which she usually wins.

Geneva and I were headed to the Senior Citizen day recently when we were involved in a wreck which damaged Geneva's new Infinity car. Luckily we were not injured, and only one person in the van that hit us went to the hospital. The van must have been going fast, for it came from across the street and swerved into our lane when it turned to go the way we were going.

We missed our usual doughnuts and coffee, and bingo games, but we were thankful that we were not injured.

My great-grandchild is visiting us this week. She is such a happy child and laughs at everything. Of course I think she is the most beautiful child.

I had a dream the other

night about our old church, Oak Grove Baptist. I dreamed that I was sitting on the front pew and turned around to see everyone. I used to be the church pianist, so this was where I sat during the sermon. I guess I was thinking about 1957 and Hurricane Audrey, which wiped us out June 27, 1957. There was Baron and Beverly Sue Thomas and their family, Bob and Judy Fruge (Bob led our singing), Junior Boy and Eunice Rutherford, Ruby Rutherford and family, Ruby and Warren Miller and girls, Eleanor West, the McQuirter family, and Olive Rutherford. A plaque in the foyer lists our deacons who lost their lives in the hurricane.

On a lighter note, you should see my hibiscus plants in the front flower bed. They are blooming their heads off.

No other summer-flowering shrub surpasses this tropical plant for glossy, dark green foliage and non-stop flowers. Its blooming season is very long-running, from late spring through the first frost, and the flowers come in shades of pink, yellow, orange, white, lavender, and scarlet. Mine are scarlet.

Be sure and include this plant when planning your garden for the future.

Freshman Fair to be held Aug. 6

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.



McNeese tuition due soon classes to begin August 3

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



THE 2004 MARSHLAND Festival Queens are shown above: (front row, from left) Little Miss Callie Nicole Brevelle; Petite Miss Madison Alden Huffman; Toddler Miss Ava Marie Mudd; Tiny Miss Kerrigan Renee Vincent; (back row) Junior Miss Courtney Jennifer Ruffer; Queen Courtney Jinks; Teen Miss Kourtney Lynn LaVergne; and Deb Miss Madeline Guidry. Baby Miss Abigail Rose Ward is not pictured.

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.

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 pre-registered to enter the class.

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THE LADY CAJUNS 16 and Under Girls Fast Pitch Softball team placed first in the Pony Regional Tournament in Baytown, Texas on July 10. Pictured above are: (kneeling, from left) Kala Hay, Kaysha Fontenot, Meagan Trahan, Sydney McCall, Haley McCall, D'nae Desonier, Coach Michelle Trahan; (standing) Coach Renee Mock, Kelsi Kiffe, Blair Belanger, Christian McCall, Laken Mock, Kala Rutherford, Haley Willis, Whitney Richard, and Coach Karen McCall.

Cam. Elem. registration announced

Registration for new enrollments at Cameron Elementary will take place on Thursday and Friday, July 29-30, Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 4 and 5, at 1 p.m., as announced by Mr. Carol Wainwright, principal. Children entering kindergarten for the 2004-05 session must have been born on or before September 30, 1999. Parents who plan to register children must bring a certified copy of a birth certificate, immunization record, social security card and proof of residence for each child. Parents who do not yet have these records should begin proceedings to secure them. Students report to school at Cameron Elementary on Wednesday, Aug. 11.

Library given proposals on Grand Chenier building

The Cameron Parish Library Board received proposals for the Grand Chenier Library project from two architects Tuesday afternoon at their regular monthly meeting. Four architects had been contacted and shown the property, but only two decided to submit proposals, Randy Broussard of Sulphur and Gene Sellers of Lafayette. Gene Sellers, of The Sellers Group firm, presented his firm's experience with designing many libraries in the Vermilion and Lafayette areas including Vermilion Parish's new main branch in Abbeville and all of the branch libraries in the parish. He estimated that the renovation of the Bonsall store building would cost \$185,000 in total construction costs with an additional amount of \$23,000 for professional fees and construction testing for a total of \$208,000. He said the finished building would be completely ready to move in with all fixtures, wiring, etc. installed. Randy Broussard, formerly a partner with Ellender and Broussard of Sulphur, also presented his firm's credentials and experience, which include five branch libraries in Calcasieu Parish. Broussard presented a floor plan and front elevation sketch detailing his concept of the finished building. He estimated a construction budget of \$146,800 with professional fees of \$11,744, for a total of \$158,544. Both architects, in fact all four contacted, said that construction costs have increased dramatically since the war in Iraq began. They also reminded the board that these are only estimates, the true costs will not be known until bids come in. The board thanked both men for taking the time to travel to Cameron and said they hope to make a decision before the next regular meeting. The board's financial report, delivered by Darrell Williams, showed the library had a total cash balance of \$588,548.89 at the end of June with a remaining budget of \$569,885.80. This would leave a surplus of \$18,663.09 to carry over into next year. Board President Cyndi Sellers asked Williams to confirm that the Library does not have "a pot of money" in reserve. With the expected costs of the Grand Chenier branch exceeding the \$150,000 set aside, even that small reserve could disappear. Board member John

Calzada reported on a problem which has developed with the foundation of the Grand Lake Library. Due to the weight of books and the softness of the soil at the site, subsidence is occurring causing the building to become unlevel. The possibility of repairing and reinforcing the building has been considered. Another possibility could be purchasing land nearby that would be less wet and would have room to add a meeting room. Branch managers from around the parish gave their semi-annual reports, and each noted the need in their communities for meeting rooms for children's programs, business use, and community use. They said their communities were very grateful for the extended hours in place for the summer and hoped they would continue.

The Board deferred a decision on increasing branch hours permanently and adjusting branch salaries until a committee investigates the budget impact. The question of mileage paid to library employees when they must use their personal vehicles for library business was raised. One suggestion was to purchase another vehicle for use when the library van is occupied on deliveries. Calzada said it was a matter of liability not to have personal vehicles used for library business. Sellers expressed concern about parking for the vehicle, since the Library has only a few spaces available and already has two vehicles to park. The board voted to go ahead and pursue purchasing a vehicle, which would be mostly used for travel to branches and conferences. The matter will be on the Police Jury agenda Monday. The Board voted to change its regular meeting date to the 3rd Tuesday of each month in order to meet before the Police Jury's agenda meeting. The time remains 4:00pm. The Board also voted to allow the Library to hold a book sale later this year to reduce the volume of old materials which have been weeded from the shelves. A recent opinion from the Attorney General's office set out the guidelines for holding such a sale. Details will be advertised when they are available.

New fee will cost college students \$59 per semester

In the latest legislative session, the Louisiana Legislature authorized the Board of Regents and the University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors to assess students with a new 4 percent operational fee. For a full-time student at McNeese State University, the operational fee will be \$59 per semester. This increase is not covered by TOPS scholarships. The operational fee was created to assist state universities in paying for increased costs mandated by the state for faculty and staff retirement, health insurance and Civil Service merit increases. In addition, the operational fee will also be used to pay for expenses related to accreditation of academic programs, acquiring instructional and technological equipment for classrooms, hiring of faculty in high demand areas and student scholarships. To assist its students, McNeese has made financial hardship fee waivers available to help students who qualify. The maximum value of the hardship fee waiver is \$179 per semester. The following criteria have been established: The cashier's office must have received a completed Financial Hardship fee waiver application by the 28th day of the semester for which the waiver is being requested.

The student must be a Louisiana resident as defined by the Registrar's Office. The student must be enrolled as a full-time undergraduate student (12 or more credit hours) on the 28th day of the semester for which the waiver is being requested. The student must demonstrate eligibility for a Federal Pell Grant with an Expected Family Contribution of zero as determined by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The student must have a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher. The student must not have received any institutional/foundation scholarships, third party contracts or fee waiver/tuition exemptions. For more information about the hardship fee waiver, contact the McNeese Office of Business Affairs at 475-5501 or at 1-800-622-3352, ext. 5501.



ASSESSMENT Cont. from Page 1

at the meeting of the Board of Review. The Police Jury has set that meeting for September 27 at 1:00 p.m. The decision of the Board of Review can be appealed to the Louisiana Tax Commission and, finally, to the courts. Conner stressed that re-assessments are required every four years and the method is set out in state law. He assured the Jury that he has followed accepted practices and invited them to come to his office and review his files if they had more specific questions. The Police Jury distributed charts to all guests showing the breakdown of parishwide taxes. There are other taxes assessed by local boards which were not included. The charts showed the millage assessed by each parishwide entity, millage, and revenue collected for the 2003 tax roll. They are: Police Jury - 27.83 mills - \$3,956,857 School Board - 50.72 mills - \$7,211,350 Sheriff's Office - 21.41 mills - \$3,044,065 Mosquito Control - 10 mills - \$1,421,796 Assessment Dist. - 2.71 mills - \$385,306 Within the Police Jury's 27.83 mills are separate items for: Parishwide Maintenance - 3.72 Mills - \$528,908 Parish Road Maint. - 6.61 mills - \$939,807 Courthouse Maint. - 2.64 mills - \$375,354 Library Maintenance - 6 mills - \$853,077 Health Unit Maint. - 1 mill - \$142,179 Garbage Maintenance - 7.86 mills - \$1,117,532 According to the Louisiana Public Broadcasting website Louisiana Public Square, the Louisiana Constitution provides for automatic rollbacks of millages when assessments increase, in order to make such changes revenue neutral. There is also a provision for local authorities to hold a public meeting to vote to "roll back up" the millage to the original amount. The website

says this often happens because local districts cite inflation and other increases in operational costs as the need for keeping the additional money. The Assessor's office estimates the increase in taxable property parishwide to be around \$6,000,000.

OTHER MATTERS

In other matters, the Jury heard from Kevin Boudreaux, Gravity Drainage District #6, regarding high water levels in the eastern part of the parish. He asked the Jury's assistance with getting the standard water levels lowered and providing more exit structures so that high water from the north can escape to the Gulf more quickly. Jurors will decide on changes to employee health insurance at their regular meeting on Monday. They expressed a desire not to increase premiums, if possible. Julie Benoit, Economic Development Director, reporting on her first two weeks of work, said she has already contacted Semptra and Cheniere energy, who are planning new LNG facilities in Cameron Parish. Semptra's facility, which will be called Cameron LNG, is set to begin construction in November. Up to 700 workers will be involved in the project. Benoit reported that she is working with the Hackberry community to gear up for the influx, to try to provide for housing and meals. Transportation along Hwy. 27 is also a concern. Penny Trahan, manager of the Johnson Bayou Library, spoke to the Jury about the need to support the libraries. She said businesses often contact her branch asking for information about the parish. She asked the Jury to "use your libraries - don't paralyze us and cut us back - when it comes up for a vote, let the people make the decision."

Education is the leading of human souls to what is best, and making what is best out of them. -John Ruskin



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SCHS signs available

South Cameron High School magnetic signs are now on sale. They are \$20 and can be purchased from any South Cameron High baseball player. Order forms are also available at Mary's New Looks, Jerome's, and Creole Pool. Please drop the forms back off at Mary's or the Creole Pool. Orders will be taken until Monday, Aug. 6, and will be delivered on Friday, Aug. 20. For more information call Pam Mudd 775-8040 or Angelia Conner 542-4011.

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Local Exchange Service Offers	Present	New
Call Plan Unlimited Plus (Primary Line)	\$19.95	\$21.95
Call Plan Unlimited (Primary Line)	\$23.95	\$25.95
Call Plan Unlimited with 3 Feature Package Enhanced	\$29.95	\$30.95
Custom Features/Other Charges		
Call Forwarding Busy	\$1.00	\$1.20
Call Forwarding - Busy Line/Don't Answer	\$2.00	\$2.40
Call Forwarding Preferred	\$4.00	\$4.80
Call Forwarding Ring No Answer	\$1.00	\$1.20
Call Forwarding Remote Access	\$6.00	\$7.00
Call Forwarding Variable	\$4.00	\$4.80
Call Return	\$5.00	\$6.00
Call Screening	\$4.00	\$4.80
Call Trace	\$4.00	\$4.80
Call Waiting	\$5.50	\$6.00
Call Waiting - Deluxe	\$6.50	\$7.00
Call Waiting - Deluxe w/Call Forward No Answer	\$6.50	\$7.00
Customer Control of Call Forwarding Busy	\$3.00	\$3.50
Customer Control of Call Forwarding No Answer	\$3.00	\$3.50
Repeat Dialing	\$4.00	\$4.80
Speed Dialing (30)	\$4.50	\$5.00
Speed Dialing (8)	\$4.00	\$4.50
Three Way Calling	\$5.00	\$6.00
Directory Listing - Additional	\$1.25	\$1.50
Directory Listing - Non-Listed	\$1.95	\$2.30
Directory Listing - Non Published	\$4.00	\$4.50
Local Directory Assistance (Per Call)	\$0.44	\$0.85

If you have any questions regarding this rate change, please call the customer service number located on your bill.

