



Governor, senators pay visit to Cameron Parish

BY CYNDI SELLERS

Gov. Kathleen Blanco spent much of the Hurricane Rita Anniversary weekend in Cameron Parish, attending three events and conducting remote interviews with television and radio stations around the state. The governor held a Town Meeting at Grand Lake Elementary School Thursday night to promote and explain the Road Home grant program.

On Friday, Blanco visited South Cameron Elementary and High Schools, observing classrooms and attending a pep rally at Tarpon Stadium. After an interview with The Weather Channel in front of the school gym, the governor moved to Sha Sha's Restaurant in Creole where she was interviewed via satellite by nine television and two radio stations. One million households should have been able to hear the message of Cameron Parish's recovery.

Then, on Saturday, she was back in the area to ride a horse in the Riding the Trail to Recovery cattle drive near Cameron. Blanco was one of the first VIP's to mount up, and handled her horse well.

At each event, the governor praised the people of Cameron Parish for "being smart and getting out" before Hurricane Rita. She was also impressed with the spirit of the people during the recovery.

In an exclusive interview with the Pilot, Blanco gave her thoughts after visiting South Cameron High School. She said she was heartened to find the children so happy, the teachers so dedicated, and the spirit so strong to be home, even though for many the home situation is still very challenging. The fact that many drive one to one and a half hours to school is a testament to the will of the people to return and rebuild, she said.

Blanco said she hoped the cattle drive would focus some national attention on Southwest Louisiana and that people would realize the border to border challenge faced by the state, which is a lot for any governor to deal with.

In other speeches over the weekend, Blanco repeatedly emphasized her determination to get people back home. "I want everybody home. I want you to be where you want to be," she said at Grand Lake.

She encouraged every homeowner to apply for the Governor's Road Home grant program, "even if you don't think you qualify." Counselors will help with the application process either at the assistance centers or over the phone.

"You have paid taxes all of your life - this is the first, maybe the last time you'll be able to recover some of the thousands of dollars you've paid out through your life," Blanco said. "We're part of the United States of America, not second class citizens."

Blanco said she was sorry it took the federal government so long to get the funds to Louisiana to rebuild, but the state had spent the time getting a plan ready, so even though the money only arrived in June, some checks have already been written.

Cont. on Pg. 5.



GOV. KATHLEEN BLANCO and Police Juror Sonny McGee are shown waiting for the cattle drive to begin last Saturday. The event was held to mark the first anniversary of Hurricane Rita. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



GOVERNOR KATHLEEN Blanco was presented with a Tarpon Spirit t-shirt by the South Cameron student body when she visited the school last week. (Photo by Tracy Lannin.)

4-Hers give donations for storm recovery

Southwest Louisiana 4-H Club members gave Gov. Kathleen Blanco a check for more than \$50,000 at Saturday's (Sept. 23) commemoration of Hurricane Rita's first anniversary.

The check represents cash raised by the 4-H'ers and the value of their volunteer work in hurricane recovery efforts.

U.S. Army Gen. Russel Honore, a former Louisiana 4-H member and one of the key federal officials charged with overseeing a part of the state's recovery from last year's hurricanes, was among those attending the commemoration. He also rode in a ceremonial cattle drive designed to remember Rita's devastation of that industry in the area.

Honore publicly thanked the 4-H members for their efforts.

"I was a 4-H'er myself," he

told the crowd, crediting the organization for helping guide him through his youth.

Dr. Paul Coreil, LSU AgCenter vice chancellor for extension, praised the 4-H members who volunteered and raised money for the hurricane recovery.

"I think the governor was very impressed with what 4-H has accomplished and also was touched by comments from General Honore saying 4-H was a special part of his life and helped bring him to where he is today," Coreil said. "This was a very powerful message that was heard by everyone attending, including the governor, lieutenant governor, Don Powell (federal coordinator for Gulf Coast Rebuilding) and our congressional delegation. It was quite a testimonial."

Cont. on Pg. 4.

Fishing industry takes big hit in hurricane

By KEVIN SAVOIE

A year after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita slammed into Louisiana's coast, its fishing industries struggle to survive, much less recover.

In terms of annual volume landed, Louisiana is second only to Alaska in domestic seafood production. In 2004, Louisiana produced 1.2 billion pounds of seafood valued at \$309 million. Annually, the state's commercial fishermen are responsible for more than 50 percent of the Gulf of Mexico's shrimp landings, 40 percent of the entire nation's domestic shrimp and 36 percent of the U.S. oyster production.

In 2003, the ports of Empire-Venice, Intracoastal City and Cameron were three of the nation's top four commercial fishing ports in terms of volume, according to the Louisiana Fishing Community Rebuilding Coalition Report.

Even before the hurricanes of '05, Louisiana's commercial fishing industry was feeling the squeeze brought on by depressed shrimp prices

caused by a flood of seafood imports and high fuel prices.

Shrimp imports for the first four months of 2006 showed an increase of 12.9 percent, or 41 million pounds of shrimp, over the same period the previous year. This equates to an increase of more than 10 million pounds per month, which is equal to the amount of shrimp exported to the U.S. each month by Ecuador, the second leading shrimp supplier behind Thailand.

Disaster relief for fishermen has been minimal up to this point. The harvesting fleet was reduced by as much as 60 percent in some areas, and nearly all fishermen have experienced some losses. and nearly all fishermen have experienced some losses.

Infrastructure has been impacted, from harvesting gear on vessels to docks, loading and storage facilities to ice plants and fuel docks to processing facilities, the last step before retail markets.

Cont. on Pg. 8.



SENATOR DAVID VITTER is shown on horseback during the cattle drive held last Saturday in Cameron Parish. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

SAMPLE BALLOT

Secretary of State,		
Mary Chohardy,	Rep., 36;	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rayburn Clipper,	Lib., 37;	<input type="checkbox"/>
James "Jim" Crowley, III,	No Party, 38;	<input type="checkbox"/>
"Jay" Dardenne,	Rep., 39;	<input type="checkbox"/>
"Mike" Francis,	Rep., 40;	<input type="checkbox"/>
Francis C. Heitmeier,	Dem., 41;	<input type="checkbox"/>
Allen "Al" Leone,	Rep., 42;	<input type="checkbox"/>

Commissioner of Insurance		
James David Cain,	Rep., 43;	<input type="checkbox"/>
James J. "Jim" Donelon,	Rep., 44;	<input type="checkbox"/>
DeAnne Hanke,	Rep., 45;	<input type="checkbox"/>
S. B. A. Zaitoon,	Lib., 46	<input type="checkbox"/>

Lower Camn. Hosp. Svc. Dist. 21, Mill - BOC - 10 Yr.

YES

NO

(Only residents of the Lower Cameron Hospital Service District - Cameron, Creole, Little Chenier, and Grand Chenier -- Precincts 2, 15, 14, 13, 12, and 17 -- may vote on this proposition.)

Nov. 7 election is told

With the Sept. 30 election out of the way come Saturday, the next scheduled election will be the Congressional primary on Tuesday, Nov. 7.

In addition to a vote on U. S. Representatives, there will also be some more Constitutional amendments on the ballot.

Cameron parish residents not already registered to vote need to do so by Monday, Oct. 9 at 4:30 p.m., according to Suzanne Sturlese, Registrar of

Voters.

You may register by mail by requesting a form or you can go by her office located at 10084 Gulf Hwy. in the single wide trailer south of Lake Charles.

You may request a ballot by mail by calling 905-1167.

Parish residents displaced by the storm who have not returned to the parish can still vote at their old precinct provided they have not registered to vote in some other parish.



THIS IS CAMERON'S main street one year after Hurricane Rita. Rebuilding is underway. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Career Fair to be held at McNeese

More than 100 employers as well as representatives from graduate and professional schools will be participating in the fall career fair from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday, Oct. 2 in Parra Ballroom and the New Ranch at McNeese State University.

This is the largest career fair in the history of McNeese, according to Kathy Bond, director of Career Services. Bond said that according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers' Job Outlook Fall Preview employers are reporting a double-digit percentage increase in college hiring for the college class of 2006-07 in all regions of the country.

Suggestions on how to make the most of a career fair along with a list of participants, their Web sites and preferred majors may be viewed on the Career Services home page at www.mcneese.edu/career.

For more information call McNeese Career Services Center at 475-5612 or 1-800-622-3352, ext. 5612.

Road Home

Applications for the Governor's Road Home Program can be obtained at all Cameron Library locations Monday thru Friday.

\$1.3 grant told for hurricane museum

Wednesday, Lieutenant Governor Mitch Landrieu and the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism announced a major step forward in the twin-storm recovery of the state of Louisiana in the form of a \$1.3 million grant awarded to the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road for a National Hurricane Museum and Science Center (NHMSC) in Southwest Louisiana. The grant, bestowed by the Federal Highway Administration's National Scenic Byways Program, is a competitive award and the largest National Scenic Byway Grant ever awarded in Louisiana history.

The NHMSC will offer a creative learning experience through interactive blockbuster "edu-tainment" exhibits in the disciplines of math, pure sciences, history, geography, and social sciences as they relate to hurricanes and tropical weather systems.

Additionally, the center is anticipated to be a base for scientists, via partnerships with organizations such as NOAA, the National Weather Service and universities, who will conduct research and showcase improvements in

meteorology, technology, communications and building systems.

While preserving and showcasing artifacts and personal histories from hurricanes that impacted the United States, the NHMSC has a broader scope of interpreting not only hurricanes but other named forms of these systems, such as cyclones and tsunamis.

Fourteen world-renowned exhibit design firms submitted proposals for the exhibit design and planning phase of this project. "The response was stunning," says Monte Hurley, Chairman of the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road Board of Commissioners.

The \$1.3 million grant will be utilized for initial architectural phases of the NHMSC, as well as to develop and make use of fundraising and marketing tools.

The Creole Nature Trail All-American Road is a 180-mile driving tour, including Calcasieu and Cameron parishes, offering the opportunity to experience world-famous wildlife habitats and estuaries.

Correction

The Grand Chenier bookmobile pictured in last week's Pilot came from Findlay-Hancock County, Ohio.

The donor's name was incorrectly listed last week.

Break-ins

Break-ins at Carroll's Quick Stop in Cameron and two similar break-ins at Rutherford Beach are being investigated by the Cameron Sheriff's Dept.

In both instances food and vodka were stolen.



SENATOR MARY LANDRIEU took part in the cattle drive held last Saturday in Cameron Parish. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Funerals



HELEN R. COLLIGAN

Helen Raphael Colligan, 94, of Hackberry, died Saturday, Sept. 23, 2006, in her Carlyss residence.

Helen was born Nagla Helena Raffoul on Oct. 5, 1911 in Lebanon, to Lebanese parents, Khalil Raffoul Yassir and Rahjia Joseph Mansour Kiroug. Riding on a camel, she was baptized on April 8, 1912 at St. Joseph Cathedral in her native village.

She traveled to the USA in 1912 with her parents. Her family first settled in Vidalia. The family later moved to Natchez, Miss. where she received her education in parochial schools, graduating in 1929. Continuing her education in New Orleans in 1930, she received her nursing certification at Hotel Dieu and became a hospital nursing supervisor.

While in New Orleans,

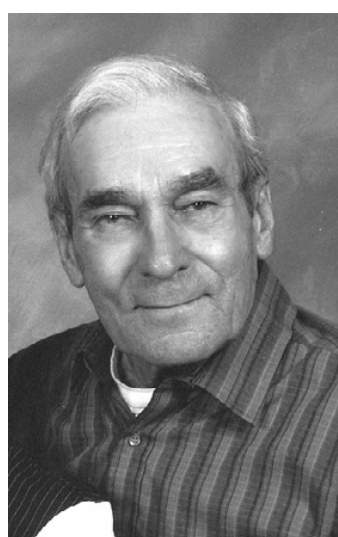
Helen met Dr. John B. Colligan. They were married on June 4, 1938 and moved to Hackberry. She worked alongside her husband for many years "delivering many babies at home and never losing one." She was active in many local organizations, including the Library Club, 25 years as a Red Cross nurse, and was a member of St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church. After Hurricane Rita, she moved to Carlyss.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Dr. J.B. Colligan.

Survivors is one son, Charles B. Colligan and wife, Lydia, of Hackberry; one grandson, Joel B. Colligan of Prairieville; two brothers, Morris Raphael and wife, Helen of Franklin, William Raphael and wife, Clara, of Madison, Miss.; and one sister, Edna Belle and husband, Gene of Mays Landing, New Jersey.

Her funeral mass was celebrated Tuesday, Sept. 26, in St. Peter The Apostle Catholic Church Hall in Hackberry. The Rev. Roland Vaughn officiated. Burial was in St. Peter The Apostle Catholic Cemetery under the direction of Hixson-Sulphur Memorial Funeral Home.

In lieu of flowers, Helen's desire was for donations to be made to St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church Re-Building Fund, 1210 Main Street, Hackberry, Louisiana 70645. **(Paid Memorial)**



ROBERT "BOB" FRAZIER

Robert Milton Frazier, 75, a long-time resident of New Holland, Ohio now living in Carlyss, died Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2006, at his home in Carlyss.

He was born in Williamsport, Ohio. A 1949 graduate of New Holland High School, he joined the United States Air Force and served from 1950-54. He was stationed at RAF Lakenheath, England with the 3909th Air Police Squadron. On his return to the U.S., he was stationed at Chenuat AFB, Lake Charles and also attended Sowel Technical School.

Upon leaving the military, Frazier was self-employed as a welder for most of his working career. He served as a deputy sheriff in Cameron Parish and served on the New Holland Town Council for many years.

Survivors are six children, Debra Frazier of Carlyss; Mrs. Mark (Kathleen) Walter

of Lake Charles; Rodney Frazier and wife Viola of Florence, Ken.; Mrs. Dan (Sherrie) Preston of Clarksburg, Ohio; Wayne Frazier and wife Patricia of Mesa, Ariz.; Shawn Frazier and wife Lisa of Washington C.H., Ohio and ten grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Saturday, Sept. 30, at Kirkpatrick's Funeral Home Chapel with burial to follow in New Holland Cemetery, New Holland, Ohio.



ALBERT "LEO" HANTZ

Albert "Leo" Hantz, 59, of Lake Charles passed away Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2006 in a local hospital.

Mr. Hantz was born and raised in Hackberry and has lived most of his life in Lake Charles. He was a graduate of Hackberry High School and attended McNeese State University. He served the US Navy aboard the USS America CV-66 during the Vietnam Conflict.

Mr. Hantz retired from CITGO-Petroleum as a supervisor after 32 years of service. He was an avid sportsman and enjoyed playing cards, golf and watching football.

His passion was fishing, as he was an avid fisherman. He was a member of the CCA fishing club. Mr. Hantz was also a member of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church.

He has touched the lives of many loved ones and will be greatly missed by all. He leaves to cherish his memory, his loving wife, Marie "Chichi" Nocilla Hantz of Lake Charles; his mother, Urline Trahan Hantz of Hackberry; four sons, Tony Hantz and wife Renee of Westlake; Donny Reed II and wife Fabrina of Lake Charles; Jared Reed of Lake Charles and Daren Reed and wife Molly of Lake Charles; three grandchildren, Robbie Handy, Donny Reed III and Madeline Reed; two brothers, Clifford Hantz and wife Brenda of Hackberry and Joe Hantz and wife Dianne of Magnolia, Tex.; mother-in-law, Frances Nocilla and one uncle, Clarence Duhon of Jennings.

He was preceded in death by his father, Albert Hantz.

Funeral services were held at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, in the Johnson Funeral Home Chapel. Father Roland Vaughn officiated. Burial was in St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church Cemetery in Hackberry. Visitation Friday was from 1 p.m. until 10 p.m. with a rosary at 6 p.m.

Visitation Saturday was from 8 a.m. until the time of service in the funeral home.

Words of comfort to the family may be expressed at www.johnsonfuneralhome.net **(Paid Memorial)**



MARGARET ANN SALTZMAN

Margaret Ann Saltzman, 53, of Cameron, died Thursday, Sept. 21, 2006 in a Houston, Tex. hospital.

Mrs. Saltzman was born Sept. 3, 1953 in Lake Charles and lived all of her life in Cameron Parish. She was a 1971 graduate of Johnson Bayou High School and worked as a Cafeteria Manager with the Cameron Parish School Board for twenty-eight years.

She was a member of Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic Church. She enjoyed spending time and vacationing with family. Her favorite pastime was playing cards; she never met a stranger, and was considered quite a prankster.

She is survived by her husband of thirty-three years, Nolton Saltzman of Cameron; daughter, Melissa Bertrand and husband Roger of Iowa; sons, Brad Saltzman and wife Stacy of Grand Lake, Brent Saltzman and wife Loretta of Indian Village, and Brian Saltzman of Oakdale; parents, Robert and Velma Merritt of Johnson Bayou; brother, Michael Merritt and wife Theresa of Johnson Bayou; sisters, Dorothy "Dot" LaBove and husband George of Hackberry, and Helen

Landry and husband Bryon of Hathaway; and seven grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Delorse LaBove. Funeral services were held Sunday, Sept. 24, at the Johnson Funeral Home Chapel. Father Roland Vaughn officiated. Burial was in Our Lady Star of the Sea Cemetery in Cameron.

Condolences to the family may be left at www.johnsonfuneralhome.net **(Paid Memorial)**

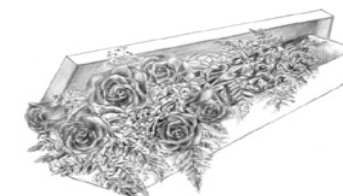


PATRICK HEBERT

Funeral services for Patrick Hebert, 43, of Hackberry, were held Monday, Sept. 25, at St. Peter the Apostle Catholic Church Hall. Father Roland Vaughn officiated. Burial was in Hackberry Cemetery, under the direction of Robison Funeral Home of Sulphur.

Mr. Hebert died Friday, Sept. 22, 2006, in a Lake Charles hospital. He was a native and lifelong resident of Holly Beach. He was a member of the Catholic faith. He was formerly employed as a commercial fisherman.

He is survived by his parents, Edward and Linda Lou Hebert and his brother, Terry Wayne Hebert, all of Hackberry.



The Ethel Precht 3rd Annual HOPE/YMCA BREAST CANCER 3K

"Tying Local Survivors Together"

~ Third Annual Fun Run/Walk ~


WHEN: Saturday, October 21, 2006

WHERE: Lake Charles Civic Center Outdoor Theater (Shell Beach route)

TIME: 7:00 a.m. - Registration begins
8:00 a.m. - Ceremony/Walk begins

COST: \$15 per adult - \$10 per student/child

Sponsored by:



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Benefits local Breast Cancer Survivors!
Honor loved ones purchase space on the "Avenue of Pink Ribbons"!

Senator Willie Mount will be our guest speaker!!

Local Cheerleaders will present a rose to each survivor at the end of the walk. There will be a brief ceremony with special guest speakers including a local Breast Cancer Survivor, followed by a new LIVE rendition of "I Have Survived" by Sabrah Kingham. All monies raised will be used to benefit local Breast Cancer patients who reside in Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes who cannot afford to purchase bras, wigs, prosthesis, and other items.
Please mail the below form to:
Ethel Precht, HOPE/YMCA Breast Cancer 3K, 165 W. Precht Road, Bell City, LA 70630.
Please feel free to call Ethel at (337) 598-2093 with any questions!!

Cash of Check payable to: HOPE/YMCA Breast Cancer 3K

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

T-SHIRTS *PLEASE CHOOSE ONE (t-shirt is included in registration fees)

SUPPORTER: (circle one) S M L XL XXL XXXL

SURVIVOR: (circle one) S M L XL XXL XXXL

*Deadline is Monday, October 9, 2006
*You may still register after the deadline as well as the day of, but we cannot guarantee you will receive a t-shirt, however we do order extras.

You may pick up and drop off Registration at Donna's Lingerie at 3518 Ryan Street, Lake Charles, LA

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Bazile Daigle Rd	Candy Ln	Holland Rd	Manuel Ln	S. Harbor Dr
Ben Harris Rd	Constance Rd	Honroe Ln	Manning	Sam Daigle Rd
Bessie Rd	Delaney Rd	Joe Demarest Rd	Martin Hebert St	Sandpiper Ln
Big Lake St	E. Harbor Rd	Josephine	Miguel	Sea Gull Ln
	Eugene Rd	Justin Granger Rd	Myles Ln	Thomas Ln
	Evas Ln	Lake Street	Ogea	Venable Ln
	Faulk Ln	La. Hwy. 384	Oliver	W. Harbor Dr
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FUNERALS

ARCHIE B. MILLER

Archie B. Miller, 88, of Lexington, Tex. died Tuesday, Sept. 19, 2006, in Giddings, Tex. He was born in Allen, Tex. He served in the military in the U. S. Army during WWII. Mr. Miller was employed by Mobil Oil Co., and retired after 30 years service as a plant supervisor.

He was a member of the Baptist faith and served as a deacon in First Baptist Church in Premont, Tex. He also served as a deacon at First Baptist Church in Grand Chenier, where they resided for over 20 years.

After moving to Lexington Tex. he was active in First Baptist Church and was a deacon.

Survivors include his wife, Aline Miller, Lexington, Tex.; a son William L. Miller and wife Paula, Lexington, Tex.; a brother, Cliff Miller, Karnes City, Tex.; a sister, Toby B. Webster, Baird, Tex.; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Friday, Sept. 22 in Phillips and Luckey Funeral Home with Warren Pustejovsky officiating. Interment was in the Lexington Cemetery.

RODNEY LYNN WILLIS

Rodney Lynn Willis, 38, died Saturday Sept. 23, 2006, in St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston.

He was born in Lake Charles and lived in Cameron most of his life before moving to Houston.

He is survived by a daughter, Callie Willis of Grand Lake; a son, Austin Willis of Lake Charles; parents, Bonner and Judy Conner Willis of Sweetlake; brothers, David Willis and Butch Willis

Constitutional amendments are explained by PAR

Louisiana voters will vote for or against 13 proposed Constitutional Amendments on Saturday, Sept. 30. The following is a brief summary of arguments for and against each amendment as prepared by the non-partisan research group, the Public Affairs Research Council.

1. Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund

□ A vote **for** would change the name of the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Fund to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund and would deposit into that fund all potential federal revenues from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas activities.

□ A vote **against** would retain the current name and allow potential federal revenues from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas activities to be deposited in the general state treasury fund.

2. Consolidation of Coastal Funds

□ A vote **for** would consolidate the Louisiana Coastal Restoration Fund and its future revenue into either the Wetlands Conservation and Restoration Fund or the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund.

□ A vote **against** would maintain a separate Louisiana Coastal Restoration Fund.

of Sweetlake; sisters, Jane LeDoux, Linda Hyatt, Ann Miller of Sulphur, Bonnie Conner of Sweetlake and Jill Willis of Lake Charles; maternal grandmother, Ida Davis.

His funeral will be at 2 p.m. Thursday Sept. 28, in Hixson Funeral Home of Lake Charles. Rev. Wayne Taylor will officiate. Burial will be in LaBove Cemetery.

3. Regional Flood Protection Authorities

□ A vote **for** would authorize the legislature to establish regional flood control authorities and create two in southeast Louisiana.

□ A vote **against** would maintain the current system of separate levee boards.

4. Hurricane Protection Liability

□ A vote **for** would lower compensation paid by the government for private property taken for or damaged by hurricane protection projects. Buildings or structures damaged by a president-declared emergency would remain eligible for higher compensation for three years after the emergency.

□ A vote **against** would maintain the current higher compensation for private property taken for or damaged by hurricane protection projects.

5. Limits on Expropriation of Private Property

□ A vote **for** would prohibit the taking of private property for many economic development projects.

□ A vote **against** would continue to allow private property to be taken for economic development projects.

Proposed Valid Uses of Taken Property

- Public buildings in which publicly funded services are administered, rendered, or provided

- Roads, bridges, waterways, access to public waters and lands, ports, airports, and other public transportation, access and navigational systems available to the general public.

- Drainage, flood control, levees, coastal and navigational protection and reclamation for the benefit of the public generally.

- Parks, convention centers, museums, historical buildings and recreational facilities generally open to the public.

- Public utilities for the benefit of the public generally.

- Public ports and public airports to facilitate the transport of goods or persons in domestic or international commerce.

6. Procedures to Transfer Expropriated Property

□ A vote **for** would change and provide in the constitution a method for selling and leasing some expropriated property.

□ A vote **against** would leave in statute procedures for selling and leasing expropriated property.

7. Medicaid Trust Fund Investment

□ A vote **for** would authorize the state to invest up to 35 percent of the Medicaid Trust Fund for the Elderly in stocks.

□ A vote **against** would continue to prohibit the state from investing this fund in stocks.

8. Homestead Exemption and Special Assessments for Damaged Homes

□ A vote **for** would allow persons unable to reoccupy homes damaged by a governor-declared emergency to retain the homestead exemption for a set period of time and provide for special assessments for eligible elderly.

□ A vote **against** would result in the loss of the homestead exemption and special assessments for eligible elderly for those unable to reoccupy their homes within one year of governor-declared emergency.

9. State Mandates on School Spending

□ A vote **for** would prohibit some state mandates to increase local school spending unless the state provides for a local source of revenue and the local government authorizes its collection. The provision would not apply to a law approved by a two-thirds vote of the Legislature.

□ A vote **against** would continue to allow the state to mandate increases in local school spending without providing a local funding source.

10. Higher Education Investments

□ A vote **for** would allow public or private colleges and universities to invest up to 35 percent of state-funded permanently endowed funds in stocks.

□ A vote **against** would continue to prohibit public colleges and universities from investing state funds in stocks.

11. Homestead Exemption for Homes in Revocable Trusts

□ A vote **for** would extend the homestead exemption to property placed in a revocable trust by a person who continues to occupy the home.

□ A vote **against** would continue to allow the homestead exemption for irrevocable trusts but not for revocable trusts.

12. Vacancy in Statewide Elected Offices

□ A vote **for** would require an election if there is a vacancy in the office of the lieutenant governor and more than a year remains in the term. It would also require a special election, if necessary, to fill vacancies in statewide elective offices.

□ A vote **against** would continue to allow an appointed lieutenant governor to serve the remainder of the full term. It would also continue to allow elections to fill vacancies for statewide elective officials only on regularly scheduled election dates.

13. Judges' Qualifications

□ A vote **for** would require judicial candidates to have been admitted to the practice of law for eight or ten years, depending on the court, and reside in their districts for one year prior to qualifying for election.



DO YOU REMEMBER? This picture was taken in October, 1961 at the groundbreaking ceremony for the South Cameron Memorial Hospital. Pictured from left were Dr. George W. Dix, Dr. S. O. Carter, Dr. Stephen Carter, and Dr. Cecil Clark. All were on the hospital's staff with the exception of Dr. S. O. Carter, who was retired. Dr. Stephen Carter is the only one still living. The hospital was destroyed by Hurricane Rita last September but is scheduled to be rebuilt.

New program for kids

The Cameron Parish Library announces a new program geared for toddlers 2 to 5 years old at the bookmobile in Cameron.

The program will take place at the bookmobile each Wednesday starting Oct. 4 at 10:30 a.m. The program will

help toddlers learn colors, shapes, seasons, etc and will feature a story time at each program. Because of the limited space, Toddler Time will be limited to the first five children to attend the 20 minute program.

Lunch menus

Lunch menus for the week beginning Sept. 29 for all Cameron Parish school are as follows. All meals are served with milk:

Friday, Sept. 29 - Beef finger steaks, mashed potatoes, orange wedges, white sauce, wheat sliced bread.

Monday, Oct. 2 - Chicken alfredo, tossed salad, orange wedges, salad dressing, wheat biscuits, Jello w/fruit.

Tuesday, Oct. 3 - Meatballs w/brown gravy, rice, carrots, fruit salad, peanut butter spread, wheat rolls.

Wednesday, Oct. 4 - Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes, fresh fruit cup, yel-

low cake, chocolate glaze, wheat sliced bread, white sauce.

Thursday, Oct. 5 - Beef nachos, tomato cup, Ranch beans, steamed broccoli, cinnamon rolls, tortilla chips.

Don't forget to vote Saturday, Sept. 30th



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South Cameron Memorial Hospital
VOTE YES!
for a Healthy Community
SEPTEMBER 30

Healthcare is a right, not a privilege. Your vote on September 30 could make the difference between healthcare in our community or none at all.

South Cameron Memorial Hospital is an important key to rebuilding Cameron Parish:

- it's the **second largest employer in the area**
- **local businesses and off-shore refineries rely on healthcare for their employees**, without a hospital in the area, many may have to re-structure or close
- **emergency care is crucial for residents who are rebuilding**, as well as the **550+ students, faculty and teachers who commute to school each day**
- **passage of this tax will ensure the continuation of services by the South Cameron Rural Health Clinic**

We're asking residents to approve a 21 mills tax for 10 years to fund operating costs for the hospital. Because of Homestead Exemption:

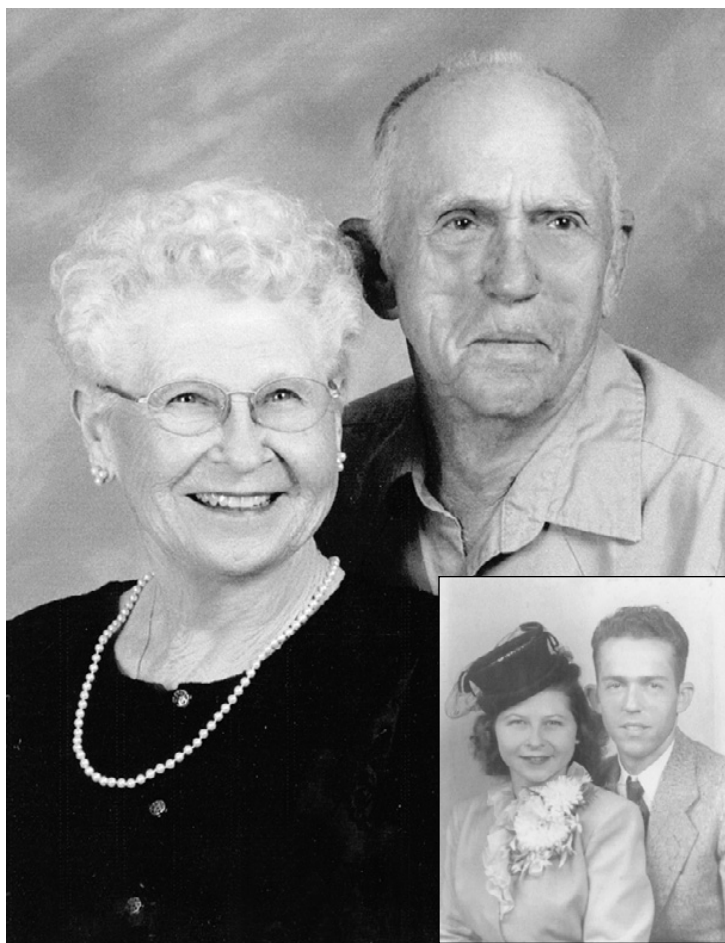
- **homes valued at \$75,000 or less will pay no additional taxes**
- **homes valued at \$100,000 will pay approximately \$50 per year for access to quality healthcare 24-hours a day**

The services provided by South Cameron Memorial Hospital will include:

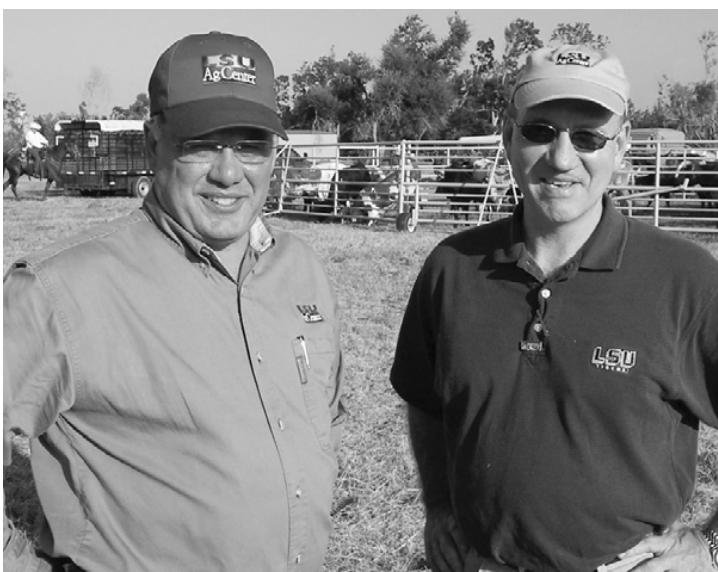
- **24-hour emergency care**
- **Acute care**
- **Radiology**
- **Laboratory**
- **Skilled Nursing Facility**
- **Retail pharmacy**
- **Dental care**
- **South Cameron Rural Health Clinic**

Choose a healthy future. Vote YES on September 30.

SOUTH CAMERON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
5360 West Creole Highway • Cameron, Louisiana



HENRY AND FERN (Demarets) Worthington of Grand Lake will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Thursday, Sept. 28. Their children are Bonnie Chapman of Tallahassee, Fla.; Keith Worthington of Sweetlake and the late Thomas Worthington. They have five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. The smaller picture was taken following their wedding 60 years ago.



DR. PAUL COREIL, LSU AgCenter vice chancellor, introduced new AgCenter Assoc. Director Dwight Landreneau to the Cameron area during the cattle drive Saturday. Dr. Coreil was the wildlife/fisheries agent for Cameron Parish some years ago and lived at Grand Chenier.

(Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

4-H DONATIONS
Cont. from Pg. 1

Justin Trahan of Cameron Parish and Cody Turner of Lafayette, both 4-H junior leaders, presented the check to the governor.

Trahan said his family has moved from Cameron to Grand Lake since Hurricane Rita.

"Eventually, we probably will be back," he said.

Trahan was among several Cameron Parish 4-H members who were taken on a whitewater rafting trip this past summer, courtesy of 4-H clubs from other parishes.

Two other 4-H junior leaders, Darbi Montie of Cameron and Eve Francheboix of Lafayette, led those attending the commemoration ceremony in the pledge of allegiance.

Montie said she got to go to 4-H summer camp this year, thanks to help from other 4-H clubs, and she did volunteer work in the storm-damaged area.

She said her family is living in Grand Lake.

"Things are kind of back to normal, but everyone is so spread out," she said.

Franchboix and Turner were among several 4-H Club members from Lafayette who came to the commemoration to help with the ceremony and visit with new friends from Cameron.

Vickie Cormier, a Lafayette Parish adult 4-H volunteer who also attended, said students from Lafayette brought Christmas gifts to Cameron Parish students last year.

Denise Turner, also a Lafayette Parish adult 4-H volunteer, said fund-raising events to help hurricane victims were successful.

"We raised quite a bit of money, somewhere in the neighborhood of \$2,900," she said.

Donnie Roger of Johnson Bayou was among cattle producers who rode on horseback for the cattle drive. He said

the event brought back several memories.

"It was very symbolic," he said. "That's why I'm here today. I worked cattle with most of those boys."

Roger said he has only 18 cattle that were found after the hurricane.

"Rita got most of them, more than 100," he said.

But Roger said his family has owned the cattle farm for more than 150 years, and he doesn't plan to quit the operation.

"We will be back," he vowed.

Also Saturday, a ribbon cutting was held to mark the opening of an ice plant. Shell Oil provided more than \$1 million for the ice plant. Organizations that helped with getting the facility included the LSU AgCenter, LSU Sea Grant, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board and Cameron Parish government.

The plant, capable of producing 20 tons of ice per day, was obtained from Morris and Associates of Raleigh, N.C.

The old ice plant was irreparably damaged by Rita. Ice is an essential commodity for the fishing industry to keep its products cold until they are brought to market.

Harlon Pearce, president of the Seafood Promotion Board, credited LSU AgCenter fisheries agent Kevin Savoie of Cameron Parish for his role.

"He's the guy who did all the leg work with the Police Jury," Pearce said. "This is one of the important partners."

Savoie said the fishing community returning to the sea is helping Cameron Parish recover.

"You are a sign of hope, work and courage to come back and rebuild this community," he said.

Shrimper Ira Rodrigue said the ice plant has made it possible to get back to work.

Dwight Landreneau, LSU AgCenter associate vice chan-



GULF COAST SUPPLY has reopened in Cameron at its original location before Hurricane Rita. Clerks Lisa Guidry and TuTu Savoie welcome customers from 8 to 5 Monday - Friday. Owners Paul and DaDa LaBove plan a grand opening soon. The telephone number is 775-5414.

(Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

cellor for extension and former Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries secretary, told the gathering the project demonstrates the AgCenter's role at helping state residents and "bringing the university to the people."

"The seafood industry is

extremely important, not only just for Louisiana, but for the whole world," Landreneau said.

"It's a lifesaver," he said. "We appreciate it a lot. Without that, it would have been rough."

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Ad including picture, information and payment may be mailed to P. O. Box 995, DeQuincy, La. 70633. If you need further information call 1-800-256-7323 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Congratulations.

Melissa LaLande

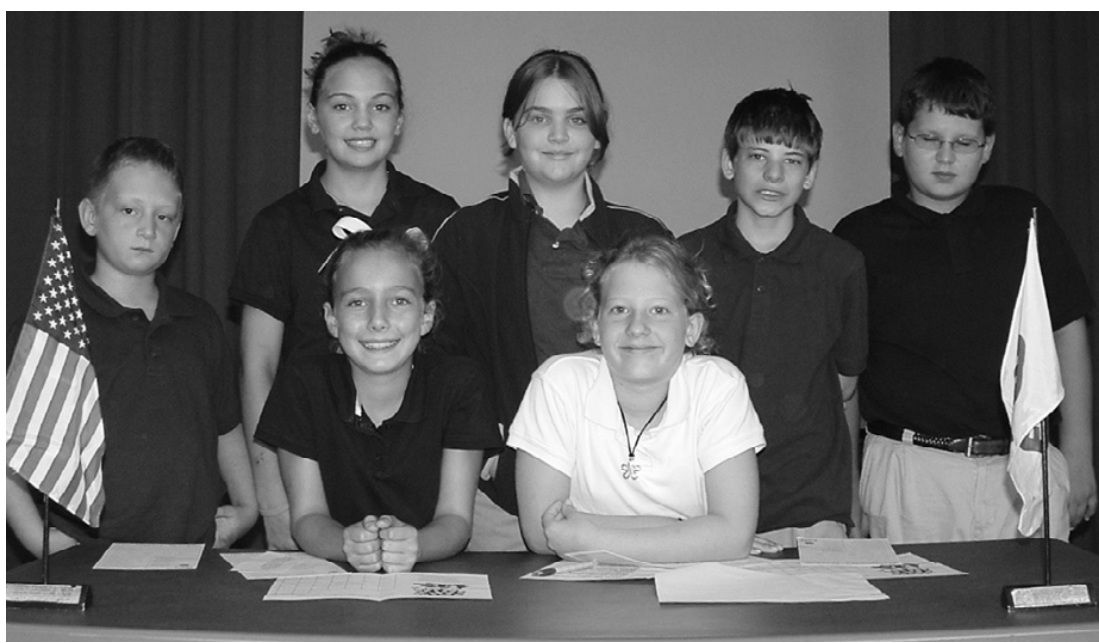
Senior Homecoming Maid

WE ARE PROUD OF YOU & WE LOVE YOU!!

Your Family



THE FIRST HACKBERRY 4-H Club meeting was held on September 13, 2006 in the school auditorium. (Photo courtesy of Jolie Trahan, Reporter.)



THE HACKBERRY JR. 4-H Officers for 2006-2007 are: President- Samantha Little; Vice President- Meagan Johnson; Secretary- Madison Shove; Reporter- Jolie Trahan; Treasurer- William Toups; Parliamentarian- Jeb Backlund; CRD Chairman- Johnathon Landry. (Photo courtesy of Jolie Trahan, Reporter.)

Rita books to be sold at Libraries

"Surviving Rita, Hope Amid Ruin in Southwest Louisiana," is a full color hardcover book that looks back at the biggest natural disaster in Louisiana's history. The book is filled with hundreds of fascinating photos by American Press award winning photographers that capture the incredible devastation and ruin in the wake of Hurricane Rita.

It shows the resilience of the people in Southwest Louisiana as they go about rebuilding their shattered lives. This book is a keepsake for everyone who lived through this historic event and a tribute to the people of Southwest Louisiana who refuse to give up hope.

Lake Charles American Press representatives will be at the following locations to sell Hurricane Rita books for \$29.95:

Wednesday, Oct. 4, Johnson Bayou Library, 10 a.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 4, Hackberry Library, 2 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 5, Grand Chenier Library, 10 a.m.

Thursday, Oct. 5, Cameron Library, 2 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 6, Grand Lake Library, 10 a.m.

GOVERNOR

Cont. from Pg 1

"After two 'twisted sisters'," she said, "I wondered if we'd get any help. People talked about how unworthy and crooked we were. We had 75-80% of the damage, but only got 54% of the (original) funds." "The President finally agreed that Louisiana deserved an additional \$4.2 billion, without which we'd have had half the program Mississippi has."

Even though Mississippi got their funds in December, Blanco said, they didn't have a plan at the time and Louisiana is ahead of that state in the grant process.

At the Cattle Drive ceremony, Blanco said the 10 months it took to get the federal dollars were long but rewarding, and there is a lot still to do in Washington along with our US senators and Chairman Don Powell. The Outer Continental Shelf royalties being negotiated in Congress are needed for coastline restoration and hurricane protection, she said.

"Our fishing industry deserves to be supported. We power the nation with our oil and gas. Our ports bring products from the center of the country to the world. We have not told our story well enough. It is our people who do the hard work and heavy lifting for the rest of the country, and we deserve to be treated better," Blanco said, bringing applause from the crowd.



Hackberry News

By GRACE WELCH

FAMILY REUNION

A family reunion was held Sept 9 at the home of Evelyn Clark in Moncks Corner, S.C. Attending was her sister, Grace Welch, daughters Mary (Coot) McInnis from Hackberry, daughter, Patricia Kershaw from Houston, Tex.

WEDDING VOWS

Josh Benoit and Julia Sanders will exchange wedding vows, Saturday, Oct 28 at 7 p.m. in Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Julia is the daughter of Jeffery and Cheryl Sanders of Hackberry. Josh is the son D.L. and Gretchen Benoit of Lake Charles.



Book Fair set at G. L.

Grand Lake School will host a Scholastic Book Fair on Saturday, Oct. 7, from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. and Oct. 9 - 16 from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Families, teachers, and the community are invited to attend the Fair, which will feature a special camping theme: Reading Rain Forest.

On Saturday, Oct. 7, the Book Fair will feature a special family event at the Fall Festival. The Book Fair will be held in the High School library.

The Fair will offer special priced books and educa-

tional products, including new releases, award-winning titles, children's classics, interactive software, adult books, and current bestsellers from more than 150 publishers.

Attendees can help the school build classroom libraries by purchasing books for teachers through the Classroom Wish List and One for Books activities. This is especially important this year as most of the elementary teachers classroom libraries were lost to water damage as a result of the hurricane.

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Hackberry 4-H News

By JOLIE TRAHAN Reporter

The first Hackberry 4-H Club meeting was held on Sept. 13, in the school auditorium. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kim Portie and the 4-H Pledge was led by Jenna Granger.

Old business that was discussed consisted of the courtyard work at HHS. New business was beach sweep, trash bash, pet show and 4-H Week. Project reports were given by

Sami Little, Meagan Johnson and Madison Shove.

The 4-H Club will adopt a road in Hackberry to keep clean. Ms. Stacy White presented a program on "Adopt a Road". Mrs. Penny and Mr. Jake welcomed all of the students to a new 4-H year and told them the new projects in 4-H. Samuel Ducote and Alex Backlund motioned to adjourn the meeting.



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GOV. KATHLEEN BLANCO joins in the Pledge of Allegiance at the South Cameron High School stadium last Saturday. She is flanked by Stephanie Rodrigue, school supervisor, and Zeke Wainwright, South Cameron Principal. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



THESE TARPONS supporters helped to cheer South Cameron's win over Lake Arthur in last week's football game. (Photo by Tracy Lannin.)

South Cameron High School News

GEE REMEDIATION

GEE Remediation will be daily at lunch recess. Any Junior or Senior that will be taking the GEE retake test in October needs to attend.

8TH GRADE PARENTS

In an effort to rebuild our student records, we need eighth grade parents to send to the school office a copy of your son/daughter's birth certificate, social security card, immunization record and any other school records to be placed in the cumulative folder in the counselor's office.

HOMECOMING NEWS

The 2006 Homecoming Court is being represented by Senior Maids: Dixie Desonier, Amanda Hackler, Jaclyn Higgins, Shetaura January, Katelyn Reina and Haley Willis;

Junior Maids: Rachael Fountain, Kami Savoie; Sophomore Maids: Falon Welch and Kimily Bourriaque;

Freshman Maids: Lexi Canik and Kelsey Mudd; 8th grade maids: Kristi

Breaux and Jadah Primeaux.

The Alumni Reception will take place at Barbe Athletic Department at 5:30 p.m. Those classes being honored are 1957, 1997 and 1982. We need a list of the graduates of 1957. Anyone that graduated in 1957, please contact SCHS at 542-4628 or email the list to vickie_little@camsch.org.

The Homecoming Dance will be Oct. 13 from 7-11 p.m. at Treasure's of Marilyn in Lake Charles. Attire for girls will be dresses, pantsuits, slacks, blouses or formal wear. Boys attire will be shirt, tie, and dress pants. No blue jeans will be allowed. Guests must be a high school student or have prior approval from administration. Sign-up guests on Monday and Tuesday, the week of the dance. Attendance to the dance requires payment of class dues. Students will have to pay their class dues to their class treasurer by Oct. 13.

BALFOUR

Juniors and Seniors will be making their deposits on

graduation rings and graduation supplies on Tuesday, Oct. 3 at 9 a.m.

SOFTBALL RING CEREMONY

The 2005 State Champion Lady Tarpons Softball team will be receiving their championship rings at the Oct. 6 football game. There will be a pre-game reception honoring the Lady Tarpons and Cameron Communications.

SPORTS SIGN-UP

It is now time to sign up for softball, wrestling and baseball.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sept. 29 - Football Welsh (away).

Oct. 2 - End of 1st Six Weeks.

Oct 3 - Ring Orders and Graduation Orders Due.

Oct. 5 - High School Report Cards. JV Football Basile (away).

Oct 6 - Football Basile (home).



Tarpons beat Lake Arthur

By CHRIS & LAURIE MUELLER

The South Cameron Tarpons scored 3 second half touchdowns and held off the class 2A Lake Arthur Tigers for a 26-20 non-district win. The Tarpons evened its record to 2-2 and handed Lake Arthur (3-1) its first loss of the season.

The Tarpons forced four Tiger turnovers and scored 20 unanswered points. This coming after Lake Arthur jumped out to a 6-0 lead on a Ben Donin 3 yard run in the first quarter.

South Cameron tied the score when Jaylon Bell scored on a 76 yard touchdown pass from Justin Picou. Ronnie George scored twice on a 32

yard touchdown run and followed that with a 1 yard allowing the Tarpons to jump to a 20-6 lead in the 4th quarter.

Lake Arthur cut the lead to 20-12 on Jake Haye's three yard run. The Tarpons put the game away on Justin Picou's three yard later in the 4th quarter.

Picou had 125 yards rushing on 18 carriers. Ronnie George added 55 yards on nine carries. Lake Arthur added a late score with a 1 yard run by Ryan Istre.

Deil Lalande was 2 of 7 passing for 47 yards. Justin Picou completed 1 pass for 76 yards and 9 touchdowns. Jaylon Bell caught 2 passes for 116 yards.

Tarpons to play Welsh

By CHRIS & LAURIE MUELLER

The South Cameron Tarpons evened their record at 2-2 and gained some much needed momentum as they get closer to district. The Tarpons will have one more tune-up game before they begin district play next week.

South Cameron will face the 1-3 Welsh Greyhounds. The only victory for Welsh this season is a 27-14 win over Basile last week.

The Greyhounds are having a rare down year, and the Tarpons have a good chance to go to 3-2 on the season.

South Cameron, who has upset wins over class 2A

Chris' Picks

Last week I went 10-2 to up my season record to 40-12 with a .769 winning percentage. This week my picks are:

- South Cameron over Welsh
- DeQuincy over Vinton
- East Beauregard over Rosepine
- Pickering over Lake Arthur
- LSU over Mississippi St.
- McNeese over South Dakota St.
- Clemson over La Tech
- ULL over Eastern Michigan
- Grambling over Prairie View
- Northwestern over Arkansas-Monticello
- ULM over Florida Atlantic
- New Orleans over Carolina
- Miami over Houston
- Dallas over Tennessee

schools DeQuincy (2-2) and Lake Arthur (3-1), would like nothing better than to have a two game winning streak going into district next week.



Overregulation / FEMA / LRA Road Home

*** VOTE Saturday 9/30/2006

We have a very serious rebuilding problem in Cameron Parish. Some laws are good, but others flush our freedom down the drain. Government overregulation is making life very, very difficult for everyone struggling to rebuild after Rita. I'm talking about elevation restrictions, building codes, and permits. The rules and restrictions did not happen overnight, but they are still on the parish books (and growing). Anyone who thinks the problem will go away is sadly mistaken. Don't think about yourself. Think of the burdens and difficulties these rules place on the elderly, handicapped, and all future generations.

This December, FEMA will announce new changes to the flood maps that will affect ALL of Cameron Parish. If you thought the insurance companies were hard to reason with, wait till you see what FEMA has for us in December/January. FEMA has several flood reports which conclude that all of Cameron Parish was inundated (flooded) and that the water went five miles into Calcasieu Parish. We know that first wind, then water, caused the damage, but FEMA does not care about wind in the flood plain. I predict that many "X" zones will become "AE" zones, many "AE" zones will be changed to stricter "VE" zones, and all elevation requirements will be much higher. The "water" is about to hit the fan!!! This will further kill off our future rebuilding efforts. The flood zone boundary lines are random and do not match reality, but they are successful in restricting and running us off our now "useless" land. Some VE zones are residential and business areas. Some AE zones are unusable under-water marshes. Check with the parish permit office to see the FIRM maps. The FEMA website has this information at <http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/recoverydata/rita/> (you will have to do a lot of reading and digging!)

The pre-Rita flood maps are at <http://msc.fema.gov/webapp/wcs/stores/servlet/FemaWelcomeView?storeId=10001&catalogId=10001&langId=-1> Click on Map Search, Zoom In, then make a firmette. (several steps!)

FEMA does not run Cameron Parish. FEMA can only recommend guidelines, not law. Only the Cameron Parish Police Jury can make and change local ordinances. The ordinances can be changed with strong public support. Encourage our Police Jurors to make the right common sense decisions FOR Cameron Parish residents, not for more and more and more restrictions. In the past three decades, previous Police Jury members sold us out for government handouts. We are living with the consequences today as we struggle to rebuild. Some say we cannot survive without the handouts. Some say we won't cut off people's electricity. A side must be chosen, one or the other-not both. Yes, it is true the handouts helped some people and totally ignored many of our people who needed help, but my point is our freedom is not free and

should never be traded or given away. Ask a Combat Veteran what this means. Most people do not begin to realize how quickly we throw our freedom away. You should have the choice to build how you want to on your own land. The land of the free has become the land of permits, permits, permits. It's time to put a stop to those rules that we will not tolerate. We still live in the greatest nation in the world, but our government is not perfect. Too many laws, restrictions, and regulations often benefit fraud, waste, and abuse—at taxpayer expense.

Just look at \$ 2+ Million Dollars of your taxpayer money on all our new road signs. Get rid of the ridiculous laws and the red tape that we cannot and will not live with. Stop making stupid laws. A weak attempt to make very minor changes to the local ordinance is underway. I hope it succeeds, but my hopes are not very high. If the guidelines of the NFIP/FEMA are unacceptable to Cameron Parish residents, then Cameron Parish must give the NFIP and FEMA the boot. The Police Jury will not take one person seriously, but if all of the residents and voters take a stand, something may be done to ease the restrictions to make life a little more bearable for us. It does not matter who the Parish Administrator is. Tina Horn helped us and cut us some slack when she could, but we cannot hide from the restrictions anymore. The regulations must be challenged head on and changed to accommodate the needs of our people. FEMA does not care about the elderly, handicapped, or the poor. All they care about is that participating communities are fully "compliant". FEMA does not have any variances for any people...only variances for the purpose of the building structure. The building codes are not state law until January, but that is a separate horrible overregulation mistake separate from FEMA where freedom was traded for handouts. The recent 30 violation letters should be a wake up call. Wake up people! If the Police Jury does not push back on FEMA and make the ordinances bearable with common sense, more and more and more restrictions and violation letters are coming. THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO BUSINESS TELLING YOU WHAT YOU CAN AND CANNOT BUILD ON YOUR OWN PRIVATE LAND!!!! The handouts some received are based on past compliance, NOT future compliance. This is just the first raindrop in a hurricane. This problem will not go away until we put a stop to overregulation. Turn up the heat and fix the problem for good. Ignoring a problem will not make it go away. Step up and stand up to be counted with Cameron Parish residents, or let more of your freedom waste away.

Now, about the LRA Road Home. I commented back in April and May that this program will be useless to everyone in Cameron Parish. The rules are set up to benefit large estates and New Orleans, not Cameron Parish res-

idences. Same with Hazard Mitigation. "Up to \$150,000" is a false golden carrot, and we are the stupid mules who fell for it. Buyout/Sellout gets top dollar, but nowhere near what you are thinking. We are eligible...for nothing or almost nothing...except more rules and restrictions. The schools and hospitals may benefit a little, but the individuals are the losers. Sold out again. Because of LRA Road Home, we are now required by local parish ordinance to elevate one foot higher with building codes before they are state laws. I sounded the warning, but no one listened. If you know of a LRA Road Home success story in CAMERON Parish, please prove me wrong and tell the readers how great and wonderful the LRA Road Home is to Cameron Parish homeowners. Propaganda trash, just like the proposals for two big bridges on Monkey Island and giant resort hotels at Holly Beach. Ernie Broussard told the Police Jury last December "mobile homes might not be part of the redevelopment plans for Cameron Parish". That's about all people can afford now days. The cattle drive should have been called "Left Behind on the Side of the Road to Recovery" with tall poles along the way showing our AE / VE flood elevation requirements. We live here. This is our land.

Now, on to the election amendments... *** ELECTION Saturday 9/30/2006

1. Yes. Rename Wetlands Name Change.
2. No. Stop punishing tobacco companies-Don't pay 20% tobacco settlement \$\$\$ to Wetlands Restoration (If government sues every business to get money, your company/job might be next!)
3. NO!!!!!! Do NOT establish more flood rules, more government, and more taxes
4. NO! Do not limit compensation to MINIMUM value for seizing your land
5. YES! Limit government's ability to seize your land (Eminent Domain / Expropriation) (Mixed bag also gives ports more authority to seize land "fast grab")
6. YES! Give you first offer to reclaim your land if seized by government
7. Yes. Invest for Medicare in the stock market
8. YES! Continue homestead exemption for disaster areas
9. Yes. School boards must have funding available in order to increase spending
10. Yes. Invest for colleges in the stock market
11. YES! Extend homestead exemption for legal trusts
12. Yes. Lieutenant Governor vacancy replacement rules
13. Yes. Lawyers must have more experience before they can be judges



LSU AGCENTER representatives visited the South Cameron High School Campus. Shown above, from left, were: Jake Fontenot, LSU AgCenter, 4-H Agent; Gary Wicke, LSU AgCenter, County Agent; Becky White, LSU AgCenter, Professor, Human Ecology, Family Development; Emily LeJeune, LSU AgCenter, Extension Associate, Human Ecology, Family Development; Annette M. La Greca, Professor of Psychology and Pediatrics, University of Miami; Scott Sevin, Vice President of 7-Dippity, Inc. (Custom Designed Educ. Materials); Cindy Richard, LSU AgCenter FCS Agent; Penny Thibodeaux, LSU AgCenter, 4-H & FCS Agent; and Stephanie Rodrigue, Cameron Parish School Board, Supervisor of Secondary Curriculum

Broussard tells progress being made in recovery

By CYNDI SELLERS

A vision of what recovery will look like in Cameron was shared with police jurors Monday night as Parish Planning and Economic Development Director Ernie Broussard shared the progress being made on several key projects.

Broussard unveiled the most recent layout for the Cameron Square complex, which will be the centerpiece of the rebuilt town of Cameron if funds become available. The complex will house the Police Jury, District Attorney, Sheriff's Office, jail, and other parish agencies in a central location.

Private property owners within the proposed development have already been contacted about the project, and the planning office is determining which parcels may need to be acquired.

In response to a question from Jay Rutherford, Broussard stated, "We do not have imminent domain (expropriation) in any projects. Any acquisitions will have property owner approval."

As to a time line, the Jury can expect to see a "pre-final" layout in 30-45 days, Broussard said. The \$30-35 million dollars needed for the project, which does not include any private development along the river, has not been secured yet. The parish is still working on the Cheniere tax plan, said to be near completion, and does not yet know the amount to come from the Louisiana Recovery Authority or FEMA.

Broussard was asked by the LRA to submit the three parish projects with the highest recovery value, from which one will be chosen to present at a Resource Fair. The Cameron Square was first choice, followed by the South Cameron hospital and, in a tie for third, the dredging of the Cameron Loop and the Holly Beach sewer system.

Another area being pursued is an application to DOTD to widen the shoulders from the Gibbstown bridge south to Creole, including turn lanes at intersections.

A second-tier plan for development of Monkey Island includes a bridge to the island connecting to a high level bridge over the Calcasieu Ship Channel. This project has created the most interest from the US Dept. of Commerce, Transportation, and Industry, Broussard said, due to the

development of the LNG industry in the parish, evacuation, and homeland security issues.

Broussard said the Trail to Recovery Cattle Drive was a great success, especially in the media department, with the Weather Channel, CNN, Disney Channel, and others reporting from Cameron Parish to a national audience.

FLOOD PREVENTION ORDINANCE

In other matters, the Jury heard from Assistant District Attorney Tom Barrett that they can expect a preliminary draft of changes to the parish's flood prevention ordinance at the next voting meeting, Oct. 2. The DA's office is working on two revisions: a section covering "accessory buildings" not currently included in the ordinance, and a provision for "temporary non-residential structures."

Accessory buildings are described as 100 square feet or less and costing no more than \$500 in FEMA regulations.

It is hoped that temporary buildings can be permitted for 180 days at a time, just like FEMA buildings, renewable as long as the emergency lasts. This would help people who need to have washers and dryers in such buildings until a home can be constructed.

Once the Jury approves the wording, the proposed changes will be sent to the National Flood Insurance Program for review. If the NFIP finds them acceptable according to its regulations, the measures could come back for a final vote by the November meeting.

The subject of air conditioners was addressed, with Parish Administrator explaining that there is nothing in the ordinance that prohibits having a unit in an agricultural building, but it must be placed above base flood elevation. She said the NFIP uses the presence of an AC unit in an agricultural building as a "red flag" calling for further investigation as to whether the building is actually being used as a residence.

HURRICANE MUSEUM

Creole Nature Trail Board member Sammie Faulk asked the Jury to pass a resolution endorsing the location of the National Hurricane Museum and Science Center in SWLA. The exact location is still being selected, with input

Garden calendar

Louisiana gardeners and others have another chance to "Get It Growing" in 2007 with the publication of this year's calendar from the LSU AgCenter.

The 2007 Get It Growing calendar, like the previous two versions, provides gardening enthusiasts with opportunities to learn more about their craft and to enjoy beautiful garden photos.

"One of the things that make this calendar so wonderful is that it is a high-quality product produced by people from Louisiana," said Elma Sue McCallum of LSU AgCenter Communications. "Not only do we have our own expert in Dan Gill, but the garden photos found in the calendar come from gardeners and photographers from all over the state."

The full-color, 32-page calendar features a special section on Louisiana irises, gardening tips for each month of the year and photos of beautiful flowers, vegetables and plants.

The new set of gardening tips for 2007 and a special how-to section on pruning a large branch come from LSU AgCenter horticulturist Dan Gill, who is known across the region for his expertise on Louisiana gardening.

The 9-inch by 12-inch calendar, which is designed as part of the LSU AgCenter's popular Get It Growing educational campaign on home lawns and gardens, sells for \$11.95 and is available for online orders at www.lsuagcenter.com/GetItGrowingCalendar.

Sample photos and more information also are available through the Website. In addition, phone orders can be placed by calling (225) 578-4161.

from Cameron Parish representatives. It must be located along the Creole Nature Trail All-American Road, because it is the recipient of the grant.

Faulk said it is important to get this facility in SW Louisiana now, because after last year's storms "somebody's going to do it." He said Mississippi is already looking into one.

The plan for the museum has grown from a Hurricane Audrey museum into a much larger concept, with a much greater economic impact. From the original \$10 million concept, it has now received a \$1.3 million grant just for the building design. A previous \$400,000 grant is being used to design the exhibits.



THROWING THE FIRST shovels of ice at a dedication Saturday of the new ice plant in Cameron were, from left: Harlon Pearce, President of the La. Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board; Fred Palmer, Shell Oil; Dwight Landreneau and Kevin Savoie, LSU AgCenter; and Frank Glaviano, Shell E & P. Shell donated the ice plant to the parish, which had contracted with Miller & Son Seafood to operate it for the benefit of the local fishing industry. Two other plants in SE La. have already been dedicated.

(Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Ice plant is dedicated

On the eve of the first anniversary of Hurricane Rita, fishermen in Cameron Parish were celebrating the dedication of a new ice plant that will aid in the recovery effort under way in South Louisiana.

The plant, which is capable of producing 20 tons of ice per day, was obtained through a financial donation by Shell Oil Co. Morris and Associates of Raleigh, N.C., provided the ice machine and its installation.

The facilities have been up and running since mid-August, but they were formally dedicated Saturday (Sept. 23) during a variety of events marking the anniversary of Hurricane Rita's landfall last year on Sept. 24.

The effort to secure the machine was led by representatives of the Louisiana Seafood Promotion and Marketing Board, LSU AgCenter, Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Foundation and Cameron Parish government.

Before Savoie, fisheries agent for the LSU AgCenter, says they hope the ice

machine will have a "trickle down effect" on the Cameron community.

"Now that there is a steady supply of ice, more fishermen can return to the water, catch fish or shrimp, and as this industry comes back to life, it will provide an opportunity for other jobs in other areas," Savoie said.

Prior to Rita, the Port of Cameron was ranked fourth nationally in total fish landings with nearly 259 million pounds annually. The majority of this total came from shrimp and menhaden (pogy) catches.

Savoie says the fish and shrimp still are present, but the industry lacks infrastructure, since much of it was destroyed by the hurricane. That infrastructure has been slow to rebound for a variety of factors, including costs.

"It's expensive to rebuild docks," Savoie explained. "Pilings have to be driven. Decks have to be rebuilt. It can be upwards of \$500 per linear foot to rebuild."

The current ice situation is

an example of how much damage was done to the infrastructure. Before Rita, a 60-ton plant was in operation along with several smaller facilities that produced ice for local fishermen. Now, the new 20-ton ice plant is the main provider for the entire industry.

Ice and fuel are priority needs for fishing boats when they go to sea. Small shrimp boats, known as "day-trippers" because they usually leave and return on the same day, need 800 pounds to 2,000 pounds of ice for their catch. Larger boats that spend several days at sea need upwards of 15-20 tons of ice.

"It has been a real blessing," said Leo Dyson, a Cameron Parish fisherman, adding, "Before we had this ice machine, there was a real shortage of ice."

Because ice in the Cameron Parish areas was in such short supply, officials said some boats have moved their operations to Galveston where there was an ample supply of ice.

Road Home funds explained

By CYNDI SELLERS

Mobile home owners who did not own land are now eligible for The Road Home housing assistance grants, it was announced last week. These home owners were initially excluded from the program, said Chief Program Officer Mike Byrne, speaking at the Governor's Town Hall Meeting in Grand Lake.

Since the Road Home is a state designed program, Byrne said, it was possible to change the rules when the oversight came to light. "We tried to design it with the individual in mind."

For the many Cameron Parish residents who have not applied for the grants because they rented or leased mobile home sites, or lived on land owned by family members, this development should come as welcome news.

The Road Home program is looking for the estimated 20,000 eligible Louisiana residents who have not yet applied for grants to rebuild, repair, or relocate. Depending on individual circumstances, the homeowner could receive up to \$150,000.

"Even if you don't think you qualify, call or come in to the center," says Opal Jackson, public affairs officer. Homeowners who come in are usually very nervous, having been through a lot, but counselors are very helpful with guiding them through the process, she said.

Some questions answered at the meeting were:

Q. "If I choose to buy or rebuild elsewhere, do I have to sell my land?"

A. No. The grant only applies to your house, not your land. The state is not interested in your land.

Q. "Is there a certain income level needed for the grant?"

A. No. There is no means test for the grant. Everyone who owned a home destroyed or damaged by Katrina or Rita is eligible.

Q. "What if my home is already demolished?"

A. Come in and we'll help you reconstruct the value of your home.

Q. "What if I sold my home to someone else?"

A. The amount you received would probably be deducted from the grant amount, but come in and we'll talk.

Q. "I already applied on line. Do I have to do it again?"

A. Not if it was actually an application. But if you only registered in the early stages of the program, you should have received an application in the mail. If you did not, call 1-888-road2la or come in to the center.

Q. "What if I owe back taxes?"

A. Don't assume you are not eligible. Apply! We'll work it out.

In general, call or visit a center. The Cameron Parish assistance center is located at 1161 Hwy 384 in Grand Lake. It's hours are 12-9 pm Tues. and Thurs. and 9 am - 6 pm Wed., Fri., and Sat., closed Sun. and Mon. The phone

number is 337-598-2918 to schedule an appointment or ask questions.

The Lake Charles center is located at 1417 E. Prien Lake Road and is open Monday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday from 9-6, Tuesday and Thursday from 9-9, and closed Sunday.

The program is trying to ramp up to serve 1000 families a day state wide. More staff is being hired and trained to speed up the delivery of checks.

Creole resident Myrna Conner praised the Road Home as the largest recovery program of its type in the state and encouraged every homeowner to apply.

Guidelines are being developed for a landlord program which would provide low interest or forgivable loans for the rebuilding of rental properties as long as the landlord agrees to keep rents affordable.



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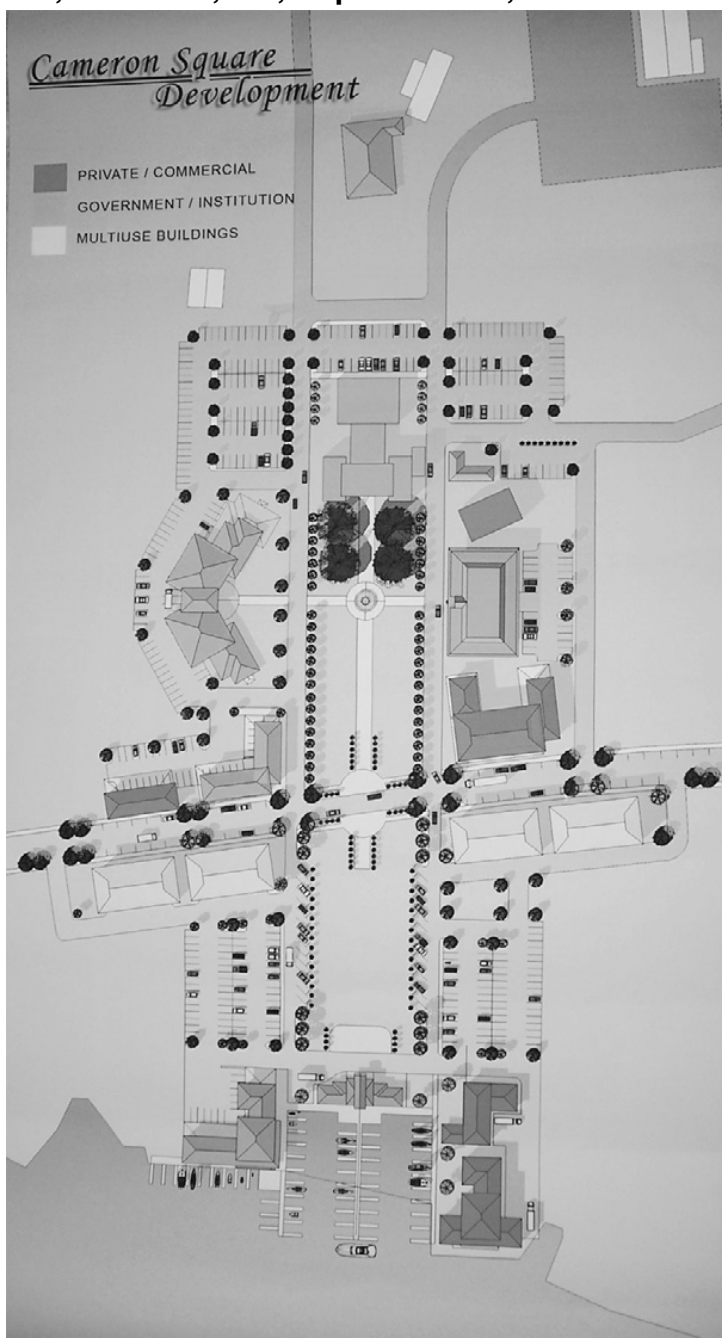
By STACEY BADON

The Johnson Bayou Recreation Center will have its end of summer pool party Sunday, Oct. 1. The pool will be open from 3-7 p.m.. Refreshments will be served from 3-6 p.m. This will be the last day the pool will be open for 2006.

The Recreation Center will be hiring an inside supervisor, anyone interested may pick up an application at the Recreation Center.

Anyone interested in working part-time at the recreation center may fill out an application. All applications must be turned in by Oct. 16. Applications may be dropped off at recreation center. Any questions call 802-8383/569-2288.

The recreation center will hold its monthly board meeting on the third Wednesday of each month at 6 p.m. in the trailer house by the baseball field.



THIS RENDITION of the proposed Cameron Square redevelopment was presented to the Police Jury Monday night. The design is based on the expressed needs of each agency, and is subject to final revision.

(Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Agency backs plants to rebuild hospital here

By WARREN ARCENEUX
American Press

The Louisiana Recovery Authority's Southwest Louisiana Task Force passed a resolution Wednesday supporting plans to rebuild South Cameron Memorial Hospital.

Plans call for a 25-bed, critical-access hospital to be built in Creole on the site of the former hospital. It would be built in two phases. The first would feature eight emergency-use beds and an emergency room. The second would include 17 beds that could be used as emergency, acute-care or swing beds.

The low bid awarded for construction of the hospital was \$18.74 million. The majority of construction costs are expected to be paid by the Federal Emergency Management Agency. A \$15.5 million funding request has been submitted to FEMA.

The LRA passed a resolution in August designating damage to public rural hospitals as a criterion for projects eligible for funding under the state's Local Government Infrastructure program.

The resolution will allow

the state to use block grants to cover Cameron's nonfederal matching costs and all repair costs that are ineligible for FEMA public assistance.

Residents of lower Cameron Parish will vote on a hospital maintenance tax proposal Sept. 30. If the measure passes, the tax would increase from 3.55 mills to 21 mills to fund operation of the hospital.

Currently, there are no health-care facilities in lower Cameron Parish. Rural health clinics are located in Hackberry and Grand Lake, but the closest emergency room is in Lake Charles.

That lack of health-care facilities is slowing the pace of repopulation in lower Cameron Parish, said project spokesman Jennifer Jones.

"People are not going to come back until they have their schools, health-care facilities and churches," she said. "We have 600 students going to school in Creole now, the offshore industry is as busy as ever and there is all kind of construction going on. There is already a need for the hospital, and it would bring more people back."

Rep. Frith urges farmers to apply for storm aid

State Rep. Mickey Frith, - Abbeville, urges farmers and ranchers to sign up for four assistance programs offered at their local USDA Farm Service Agency by Friday, Sept. 29.

The four programs are the Livestock Indemnity Program, the Feed Indemnity Program, the Hurricane Indemnity Program, and the Tree Indemnity Program for crop disaster, livestock, tree and aquaculture assistance.

The Livestock Indemnity Program provides payments to eligible livestock owners and contract growers who incurred the death of livestock due to the hurricanes.

The Feed Indemnity Program provides payments to eligible livestock owners and cash lessees who suffered feed losses or increased feed costs due to the hurricanes.

The Hurricane Indemnity Program provides payments to eligible producers who suffered crop losses and received either a Federal Crop Insurance Corporation crop insurance indemnity or an FSA No-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program payment. All producers who either filed a claim with a re-insurance company or received and Indemnity must contact their local FSA Parish office by Friday.

The Tree Indemnity Program provides payments

to eligible owners of commercially-grown fruit trees, nut trees, bushes and vines that produce an annual crop and were lost or damaged due to the hurricanes.

"Those who have not applied need to take advantage of these programs and enroll this week," Rep Frith said. "This opportunity will not be repeated, because there are no late filing provisions for these programs."

To enroll in the programs in Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes, visit the Farm Service Agency located at 1400 Hwy. 14, Suite C, Lake Charles and ask for Cynthia You may also phone 436-5020, Ext. 2.

Remember to vote Saturday, Sept. 30



JOHNSON BAYOU High School FFA students are shown planting crepe myrtles on the school grounds Sept. 24 at 10 a.m. on the first anniversary of Hurricane Rita. The plants were donated by the Iowa FFA and Wilkinson Tree Farm of Iowa. Students shown above were Randy Scroggins, Travis Romero, Holly Simon, and Justine Trahan.

(Photo courtesy of David Vincent, FFA advisor.)



JANICE TRAHAN is one of the staffers at the Road Home Assistance Center which is now open at 1161 Hwy. 384 in Grand Lake to assist parish residents in rebuilding. The center is open Tuesday through Saturday. The telephone number is (337) 598-2918.

(Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Payne has graduated



Seaman Justin Payne

Seaman Apprentice, Justin J. Payne, has completed United States Coast Guard basic training. He graduated Friday, Sept. 22 in Cape May, N.J., United States Coast Guard Training Center, where he was greeted by a number of family members and friends.

Jacksonville Beach, Fla., an aids to navigation station, is where he will be stationed.

His grandfather, Richard Hebert, was also stationed there when he was in the Navy and his great-grandfather Seven Miller was a Coast Guard member of the Swamp Angels, which patrolled the Gulf coast.

Justin is the son of James Payne, Jr. of Lake Charles and Tina Payne of Creole. He is the grandson of James Payne, Sr. of Lake Charles, Richard Hebert of Basile and Lucille Hebert of Lafitte. Lida Miller of Sweetlake, and Ruby Hebert of Cameron are his great-grandmothers.



PICTURED ABOVE is one of the AmeriCorps teams that have been working in Cameron Parish this past year helping rebuild homes and helping get schools ready to open. On Saturday, Sept. 30 at 8 a.m. 70 AmeriCorps members, St. Louis students, and Sulphur High School Key Club members will clean property at the Cameron Elementary School, Hixson Funeral Home, Dr. Clark's homestead, and other properties. Other volunteers are invited to join them in their efforts.

(Photo courtesy of Julie Burleigh.)

Letters to the Editor

AmeriCorps has helped

Dear Editor:

During this last year, AmeriCorps has worked alongside Mrs. Julie Burleigh, our team's sponsor, and other volunteer groups to help the people of Cameron Parish by mucking mud and debris from homes, buildings, and properties; rebuilding homes; getting schools ready to open; and even just listening to the stories of so many special people in the parish.

We hope by being here we have given help and encouragement for people to come back and start their lives over in this wonderful place. You have shown us strength and love that we thought no one would have after experiencing a disaster of such magnitude.

When our time came to depart to other projects, we left with sorrow and tears in our eyes for the people who took us in as friends and became part of our family.

On Saturday, Sept. 30, at 8 a.m. at the Courthouse Square, we return to Cameron Parish with 70 AmeriCorps, St. Louis students, and Sulphur High Key Club members to clean properties in honor of these people and their strength after the storm.

We invite you to join us at Cameron Elementary School, Hixson Funeral Home, Dr. Clark's homestead, and other properties. Hurricane Rita may have knocked the people down, but not out. You are not forgotten. We're back!

AmeriCorps Teams

Father Vincent is thanked

Dear Editor:

I believe that when someone does good things he or she should get a public "Thank You."

The person I am speaking of is our priest Father Vincent at St. Eugene Catholic Church in Grand Chenier. Father Vincent has been serving us for over 12 years, and we have appreciated each year of his love and compassion.

Father Vincent was not with us when Hurricane Rita hit and devastated Grand Chenier, he was in India because his father was gravely ill. When he heard what had happened to Grand Chenier, he told friends and family that he had to come back to Grand Chenier. Even though they tried to convince him that everything was gone and why should he want to come back, his reply was "Those are my people, I love them, they love me and they need me and he came back."

Since December 2005 he has said Mass every Sunday at St. Eugene even though conditions were a long way from being the best and he has worked with us, prayed with us, and cried with us.

So I and every person in Grand Chenier say a huge "Thank You" Father Vincent. You will never be forgotten.

You people who have read my letter, when you say your nightly prayers, would you please say a little prayer for Father Vincent, that things become brighter for him.

Thank you, Dora Pinch

LEGAL NOTICES

Cont. from Pg. 9

- a. Beachfront Dev. Dist. #2 - Brenda Boudreaux, Bobbi Primeaux - term expired
 - b. Fire Dist. #9 - Joe McCall - term expired
 - c. Library Board - John Calzada, Wanita Harrison - term expired
 - d. Waterworks Dist. #2 - Alton Schexnider - term expired
 - 10. Hearing - Intention to Abandon:
 - a. Parish Road No. 379 - East Creole
 - b. Parish Road No. 492 - Ina Lane - Grand Lake
 - c. Parish Road No. 266 - East Creole
 - 11. Abandonments:
 - a. Parish Road No. 379 - East Creole
 - b. Parish Road No. 492 - Ina Lane - Grand Lake
 - c. Parish Road No. 266 - East Creole
 - 12. Intention to Abandon:
 - a. Parish Road No. 380 - East Creole
 - b. Parish Road No. 368 - Marion Primeaux
 - c. Parish Road No. 3179 - Malcolm Road
 - 13. Acceptance of Bids:
 - a. Project #2006-14 - Parish Rd. #217
 - b. Project #2006-15 - Creole Fire Station
 - c. Culverts
 - d. Sale of Surplus Road & Bridge Equipment
 - 14. President Authority to Sign:
 - a. Contract - Dupont Building - Bathroom Facility
 - b. Resolution - Midwest Employers Casualty Company - Documents related to Self-Insured Employer's Worker's Comp
 - 15. Region 7 Resolutions
 - 16. Financial Statements/2006 Budget Amendments
 - 17. Amend Personnel Policy Manual - Temporary Employees
 - 18. Johnson Bayou Cemetery Maintenance
 - 19. Resolution - National Hurricane Museum & Science Center
 - 20. Pay July, 2006 Bills
 - 21. Staff Report:
 - 22. Executive Session:
 - a. Pending Litigation
 - b. Possible Litigation - Personnel
 - 23. Discussion and Motions - Personnel
- RUN: Sept. 28 (S 41)

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals for the construction of the following project will be received by the Cameron Parish Gravity Drainage District 3 until 2:30 p.m. on 17 October 2006 in the temporary building near the Cameron Recreation Center behind the Cameron Courthouse, Cameron, LA.

Project Number: 2006-03 Post-Rita Restoration of Bolo Pump Station

The rules and regulations for the State Licensing Board for contractors will apply; the project being classified as:

- 1. Building Construction.
- Proposal forms will not be issued later than 24 hours prior to the hour and date set for receiving proposals. Every bid submitted shall be accompanied by a certified check or bid bond in the amount of 5% of the bid and shall be made payable to the Cameron Parish Gravity Drainage District 3.

Full information and proposal forms are available at the office of Lonnie G. Harper & Associates, Inc., Post Office Box 229, Grand Chenier, Louisiana 70643-0229, (337) 538-2574. Plans and specifications may be inspected upon deposit of \$50.00 per set. Bids must be submitted on proposal forms provided by the engineer. Official action will be taken at the regularly scheduled Cameron Parish Gravity Drainage District 3 meeting. The Cameron Parish Gravity Drainage District 3 reserves the right to reject any or all the proposals and to waive informalities.

Cameron Parish Gravity Drainage District 3 /s/Scott Henry
RUNS: Sept. 28, Oct. 5, 12 - S 42





PHOTOGRAPHERS and others rode in this horse trailer turned bus during the cattle drive held in Cameron Parish last Saturday. Others, including Gov. Kathleen Blanco, rode horseback. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



THE VERMILION Parish Sheriff's Posse, 40 strong, joined state and local leaders in Cameron Parish last Saturday to assist with the cattle drive and to represent the parish's losses from Hurricane Rita. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Cameron Outdoors

By LOSTON MCEVERS



A YEAR LATER

It's been a year since Hurricane Rita came onshore and really put a strain on Cameron Parish folks. Lower Cameron Parish is still trying to come back, but it's still a long way to go.

Saturday's cattle drive and on shore activities to the damaged and totaled Cameron Recreation Center was attended by our Governor Blanco, senators, representatives, and the General who came down to clear roads after Rita and many of our local folks. All this is well said and done but we still have a housing problem, especially what you can and can't do on our own land. This is holding back lots of Cameron residents from coming back, not counting the insurance problems and then the new codes coming up.

We look at all the environmental damage to our marshes and that's a great loss as hunting, fishing and commercial fishermen need these marshes for shrimp to raise

as well as fish to migrate. Our commercial fishermen have lost between 250 and 300 boats, our cattlemen have lost their herds of cattle (25,000 to 30,000), again they need grassy pastures to raise cattle, plus all the fences. Cameron Parish also needs hunting for their economy. There will be hunting clubs not open again this hunting season and if you look around the independent hunting camps are held back by what they can and can't do. All this at a cost to Cameron Parish.

There has been great harm done to Cameron Parish's great outdoors. Look at the freshwater fishing impact, and that includes Sabine National Wildlife Refuge where millions of dollars will be spent to try and bring it back like it once was, but this could take years.

The impact of Rita also hurt our state wildlife revenue on commercial fishing, resident hunting and fishing licenses and even a cut in alligator tags. We still don't know

the impact on our deer herds, our rabbits and squirrels, so yes, as we celebrate the first anniversary of Hurricane Rita, we have a lot to be thankful for, but a lot to hope for and a long way yet to go.

This said and done, the faith and hard work of our Cameron Parish folks will go on and we will rebuild and survive, but there's still a long hard road ahead of us.

HUNTING TEALS

Teal hunts in many of our marshes is great while in some marshes, it's slow. If you look around and see all the wild rice in some marshes, that's where the teals are. The marsh on the south side of Hwy. 82, (saltwater marsh) is where it is slow hunting in most areas, as there is just not enough feed to keep the teals there. We sure need Ducks Unlimited to help put these marshes in better shape, that includes all along the Cameron Coast, not just the "Big Dogs".

Looking ahead for our regular duck season, our Mississippi Flyway ducks that came down south to our area mostly come from the prairies of the United States and Canada, however some come down from Ontario and the Great Lakes states and in what they call the boreal forest. Manitoba is among the most important waterfowl breeding areas in our Mississippi Flyway.

Wetland conditions in the southern area of Manitoba were very good and duck numbers increased 10 percent in an area survey. Mallards were up 12 percent, 35% above long term average. Gadwalls (gray ducks), canvasbacks, red head, scaup, blue and green winged teals also had an increase. Three species that were in decline were shovelers (spoonbill), pintails and wigeon. In Ontario good breeding grounds for mallards, black ducks, wood ducks, and ring-neck ducks was good and a good average on hatches.

I'm really looking forward to getting the Louisiana duck count, which I'm sure will be in November, and even the overall duck count for each flyway.

BLUE COLLAR BOATS

As we fish different areas even the big lakes, we see more and more aluminum boats. I'm not talking about our 14 and 16 foot aluminum boats with our 25 and 40 HP motors we use in our marshes, small lakes, and rivers. Today's new age aluminum boats are called Blue Collar

Cadillacs. They're 18 to 22 feet long, rigged out with a 90 HP motor or larger, either a bass rig or center console rig... yes there's depth finders, fish finders, and GPS, along with powerful 24 volt trolling motors, plenty of storage, rod box and live wells. These boats run from 16 to 20 thousand dollars, compared to a new Skeeter bass rig, rigged out for 30 thousand plus dollars. A center console fiberglass rig runs 30 to 50 thousand dollars, so yes there's a big difference in these Cadillac rigs.

The lighter aluminum rigs cost less to tow in gas, and can get in shallow waters you can't get with the bigger boats. One disadvantage is rough waters, but there's places to get out of the rough waters, not run as far and still have a great day of fishing. You still got plenty of speed, and rigging an aluminum boat with a hydraulic jack, you have a greater performance.

Take a kid fishing, make your day!

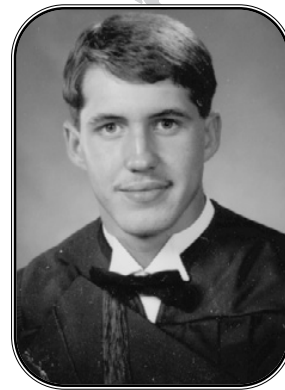


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Remember Me

Remember me when flowers bloom early in the spring.

Remember me on sunny days in the fun that summer brings.

Remember me in the fall as you walk through the leaves of gold.

And in the winter time - remember me in the stories that are told.

But most of all, remember each day - right from the start.

I will be forever near, for I live within your heart.

Eight years have come and gone, and we miss you so much.

We Love You "P-Nut"

Daddy, Mama, Carey, Doo & Donna

Parent, I miss you too.

Onjéle

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GOVERNOR KATHLEEN BLANCO visited the fourth grade classroom of Peggy Griffith where students were conducting experiments in coastline and wetlands protection. Trevor Bertrand, Abigail Vargas and Blayne Miller are shown creating waves to test their levee system made of bricks as the Governor watches. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

Governor visits students and views their project

Students at South Cameron Elementary School recently learned about beach erosion control by using an LSU AgCenter lesson plan about hurricanes.

Teacher Peggy Griffith said the lesson works well with the fourth-grade curriculum.

"It fits right in with our lesson," she said. "In earth sciences, we talk about coastal erosion."

Griffith said her students have become more aware of the problems since last year's hurricanes - particularly Hurricane Rita, which dramatically affected this area.

"They know what's going on," she said. "They've seen it firsthand."

The lesson plans, written by LSU AgCenter graduate assistant Kathryn Fontenot, include details on how storms are formed, Hurricane Rita's effects on agriculture in the area, hurricane terms, hurricane preparation measures and other material.

Lanette Hebert, the LSU AgCenter's 4-H regional coordinator for central and southwestern Louisiana, said the hurricane lesson plans will be distributed to teachers across the area by LSU AgCenter agents.

Hebert said the material was written to encourage students to get involved with their families in the hurricane preparation process - with the idea that they can suggest to parents what steps should be taken.

"That's what 4-H was based on - educating the children so they would go back and educate the parents," she said.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco stopped to visit one of the classes Friday (Sept. 22).

"They're looking to rebuild strong," she said. "I think this is a good lesson."

Blanco also said the southwestern Louisiana students showed resilience. "There's a good spirit," she said. "These kids are committed to making their lives come back."

Cameron Parish 4-H leaders Jake Fontenot and Penny Thibodeaux, along with Griffith, came up with an experiment to demonstrate how beach erosion can be controlled.

In the experiment, sand poured into one end of a plastic storage box was used to simulate a beach. Different erosion control features were built using common items. Students filled the boxes with a 2-inch depth of water, then



GENERAL RUSSEL HONORE was right at home on a horse when he and Lake Charles Mayor Randy Roach took part in the Cameron cattle drive last Saturday. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

rocked the containers to make waves.

Dalynn Mhire smashed modeling clay against a popsicle stick fence that she made to hold back waves in a simulated storm.

"All right, look guys, no water is going to get through here," she told her fourth-grade classmates.

One of her team members, Cade Murphy, was worried that the design might not work.

"When we get the wave action, everything is going to tear up," he said.

They installed another wall of three bricks for their first line of defense.

After the experiment, Cade was relieved that, for the most part, the features worked.

"We had some erosion, but not a lot," Murphy said. "We did good."

Students know personally the damage hurricanes cause to buildings.

Their original classroom structure, damaged beyond repair, was a demonstration of what can happen to buildings in a hurricane. Now their classes are being held in a large temporary building.

Many of their homes also were damaged or wiped out by the storm.

After the experiment, students talked about their personal experiences after Hurricane Rita.

Student Kayleigh Fuselier said her family is living in a mobile home.

"If anybody is running in the house, it shakes," she said.

Brianna Fountain said her cousin kept crying. "I want my house back."

"When we got to my house, there wasn't anything left there but sand," Fountain recalled.

Hallie Boudreaux told the class that when her family returned to Cameron, all they found was devastation. "On the way, we passed up our house, because there was nothing left," she said.

Luke Miller said his family returned to their home site and found only pilings remained. In a bit of good news, however, he said the family dog that got left behind was waiting on the road.

"He was wagging his tail," Miller said.

Linlee Lalande said her family returned to their home two days after the storm and found the family cat in a tree.

Caine Badon said his family's cat also survived the storm.

"Her name was Stormy, but we renamed her Rita," he said.



THE HUMMINGBIRDS are back in Cameron! (Photo by DeDe Nunez Sanders.)

Hummingbirds back in Cameron--and hungry!

By DEDE SANDERS

The humming birds are back in Cameron! Last week I set out a humming bird feeder after seeing only one humming bird flying around our back porch. Within the next couple of days I bought three more feeders because more birds were coming in. As of this week, I am refilling all four feeders sometimes twice a day! More than fifty birds are visiting our back porch at a time.

I make a simple syrup of four cups of sugar and two cups of water and microwave that for about six minutes in a glass bowl. I put the syrup

in canning jars and seal. When needed, I pour about one part simple syrup and three parts water in the humming bird feeders. The store brought syrup contains red dye that is not good for the birds.

A neighbor's feeders filled with the red store bought syrup is still full after two weeks and mine is being emptied daily. The cold weather will soon drive these little jewels south across the Gulf of Mexico. To get more information on feeding hummingbirds, come by the Cameron Parish Library bookmobile in Cameron.

Program on SIDS to be held in Lake Charles

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals - Office of Public Health's SIDS Awareness Program is featuring demonstrations on safe sleeping positions for babies, tips on healthy behaviors that can decrease the risk of SIDS, educational material on SIDS and factors that can reduce

SIDS deaths. Pregnant women and those with children under one year old are eligible to register to win free baby beds and a variety of baby merchandise.

This event will be held Saturday, Oct. 14 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Wal-Mart on Old Hwy, 171 in Lake Charles.

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Lake Charles Civic Center
Saturday October 21
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365 dawns have broken on our coast since Hurricane Rita.

In that year, all of us have worked hard at recovering and moving ahead. We at Cameron Communications tackled our first priority first — getting vital communications up-and-running in lower Cameron Parish. We quickly told our customers, *“We’re ready when you’re ready to get connected.”* ■ Since then, we’ve moved ahead to improve communications throughout the area. We’ve installed state-of-the-art fiber optics for digital phone, TV and Internet in Grand Lake, making it one of the most technically advanced communities in the nation. We’ve introduced Mercury Internet Phone Service, an exciting home phone option in Lake Charles and Sulphur. We’re bringing digital television to Elizabeth, Pitkin, Sugartown and communities in southeast Texas. ■ In the 365 days since Hurricane Rita, Cameron Communications has never stopped working to make the horizon brighter. We invite you to get connected.



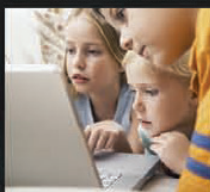
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