



**Master Chief
Frank D. Davis**

Frank Davis is honored on retirement

Master Chief Petty Officer Frank D. Davis, a native of Cameron, was honored on his retirement from the Navy after 26 years of service at a ceremony held in Virginia Beach, Virginia on Nov. 7.

Davis is the son of Frank and Ida Davis of Cameron, and a brother of Barbara Conner and Judy Willis of Cameron, James LaBove of Creole and Bryan Davis and Dean Davis of Grand Lake.

A native of Cameron, Davis enlisted in the Navy in 1978. After recruit training and aviation machinist mate training, he reported to Fighter Squadron 101 FRAMP to begin his long career in the F-14 community.

His career included deployment to Mediterranean Sea and Arabian Gulf on-board the USS Enterprise in 1998. He also served on the USS Harry S. Truman on its maiden voyage to the Mediterranean Sea.

Master Chief Davis received numerous command and personal awards during his 26 years of service.

In addition to the Harry S. Truman and Enterprise, Davis served aboard the Carriers Nimitz, America and George Washington.

Festival on board agenda

The Louisiana Fur and Alligator Advisory will meet Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 10 a.m. at the La. Dept. of Wildlife in Baton Rouge.

Participation in the Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival in Cameron in January will be discussed.

Women's meet

A women's meeting will be held at the Hackberry First Baptist Church at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Dec. 8. Appetizers and desserts will be served.

Attendees are asked to bring a Christmas gift for Chinese gift exchange and a friend.



SANTA CLAUS ARRIVED by Fire Truck at the Grand Lake Recreation Center for breakfast and photos with children in the community. Pictured above are Santa (alias Paul Wasson), Lion President Toby Landry, Lion Treasurer Lori Broussard, Lion Secretary Paula Chesson, Lion Donna Gaspard, and Lion Heather Gaspard (photographer). Grand Lake Lions club collected donations of can goods for needy family baskets and \$185 to assist with eye glass purchases. Special thanks to the Grand Lake Recreation Center and Grand Lake Fire Department for the role they played in getting Santa to stop in Grand Lake so early in the year!



35¢

Flood insurance is discussed by P. J.

By Cyndi Sellers

Cameron Parish Police Jurors had a lot of questions for FEMA representative David Heigel at Monday night's monthly meeting, most having to do with variances. Heigel clarified several points and promised to check on others.

Heigel explained that the National Flood Insurance plan is provided by the federal government to make flood insurance available to areas that private companies will not cover because of high risk. In order to receive coverage, the parish as a whole must participate. Individuals or companies may not "opt out" of the program.

The consequences for a parish opting out of the program would include loss of various grant funding and more importantly loss of all bank loans for construction, since insurance is required for loans.

The government has established regulations for construction and requirements for elevation in order to reduce the risk of flood damage and therefore reduce the cost to taxpayers. Heigel explained that each site is assessed for base flood elevation and the difference between ground elevation and base flood elevation could vary.

Juror Steve Trahan asked him to check on elevations just across the state line in Texas. Juror Scott Trahan asked how many flood claims had been filed in Cameron as compared to Calcasieu and other parishes over the last few years. Heigel promised to find out and report back.

Jurors noted that they had granted six variances in the past, over staff objections, that were criticized by FEMA. Heigel explained that the agency is generally not approving medical variances any more since they may put handicapped people at more risk in a flood. Some variances are granted, however, such as for historical buildings and functionally dependent use.

The six questionable variances cause Cameron Parish not to qualify in the Community Rating System for lower insurance rates. Since the parish has not granted a variance in the last year, it may qualify at the next review. Heigel said the parish is "already doing a lot of things necessary for the

first 5% reduction."

JURY ACTIONS

The Police Jury set its next meeting for Jan. 12 at 3 p.m. for the swearing in of three new jurors. By law this must be done on the second Monday of January. Darryl Farque, Sonny McGee, and Douaine Conner will join four returning jurors for the first seven-member panel in parish history. After the ceremony, the new panel will proceed to the agenda meeting followed by the regular business meeting at 5.

In other business the jury voted to:

*Grant liquor license to Donald and Wardella Pugh for The Variety Shop in Cameron.

*Grant a liquor license to Douglas M. and Sue C. Haynie for Mack's Shack in Creole.

*Appoint Barbara Lou LeBlanc to the hospital board.

*Appoint Kevin Boudreaux and Walter Rogers to Gravity Drainage Board 4, replacing Robert Montie and Leroy Richard who resigned.

*Advertise the sale of a used fire truck and utility truck.

*Seek State Bond Commission approval for permission to borrow \$45,000 for Ambulance District #1, to help purchase the building they now occupy.

*Appropriate \$6,700 for equipment for the Klondike Fire Dept.

*Appropriate \$7,500 to purchase panels for the livestock barn.

*Adopt the 2004 budget. *Set tax elections for the March 9 ballot for renewals for Consolidated Garbage, Hackberry Fire Dist. #1, Cameron Fire Dist. #1, Waterworks District #7, and Gravity District #9.

*Place a resolution on the March 9 ballot exempting drilling rigs from property tax while in port for repair.

Sabine R. important to the birds

The Sabin Wildlife Refuge in Cameron Parish was one of 508 areas in the country deemed "Globally Important Bird Areas" by the American Bird Conservancy in a new guide released this month.

The ABC launched their Important Bird Areas Program in 1995 and has contracted to identify the very top sites throughout the U.S.

A complete list of the all sites can be found at: www.abcbirds.org/iba

Christmas musical is set Dec. 13

Twenty-three youth and children from the Cameron-Grand Chenier area will present a Christmas Musical at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 13 at the First Baptist Church of Cameron.

The musical, titled "The First Leon" tells the story of a boy whose name spelled backwards in Noel. Leon, though not very talented, wants to spread the meaning of Christmas by participating in the annual pageant.

Through his own experience of rejection, he realizes how Jesus must have felt, and during the play he manages to share those feelings with his friends.

The program has thirteen musical numbers, some with choreography, and features soloists Jared Racca, Patrick Clark, Jada Primeaux, Kent Doxey, and Jeffrey Racca.

Admission is free, and everyone is invited to attend.



LITTLE MISTER AND Miss Grand Lake 2003 are Stephen Poole and Darbie Montie. Stephen Poole is in the first grade and is the son of Scotty and Missy Poole. Darbie Montie is in third grade and is the daughter of Mike and Kim Montie.

Litigation to be discussed by S. Board

The Cameron Parish School Board is expected to go into at least three executive sessions when the board holds its monthly meeting Monday, Dec. 8. An agenda meeting is at 3 p.m. followed by the regular meeting at 4 p.m.

The board is expected to go into one closed session concerning "prospective litigation and investigative proceedings regarding a parental concern."

Two more executive sessions also are scheduled to hear an appeal regarding an expulsion of a student and to do the annual evaluation of the superintendent.

Dr. Doug Chance was named the school superintendent in January following the retirement of Judy Jones.

In other matters Monday the board will:

*Receive parental comments regarding student management.

*Consider granting permission to the Academically Gifted Artistically Talented Education Class from Cameron Elementary School to visit an art exhibit on Jan. 4 at the Houston Museum of Fine Arts.

*Consider giving permission for the South Cameron High cheerleaders to attend a national cheerleaders event in Dallas Dec. 27-29.

Blood drive held

In the August blood drive held at the Cameron Parish Police Jury offices a total of 20 units of blood were donated, according to Myrna Conner, community coordinator.

Since each unit of blood is usually separated into components, Cameron donors helped as many as 60 area patients.



DENNIS TRAHAN, right, of Cameron Telephone, presented a check for \$1000 to David Duhon, Grand Lake High School principal, to help cover expenses for the Cameron Parish Basketball Tournament which will be held Dec. 16-18. This is the fourth year that Cameron Telephone has helped sponsor the tournament, previously held at Hackberry, Johnson's Bayou, and South Cameron High Schools.

Parish tournament set for Dec. 16 & 18

The 2003 Cameron Parish Basketball Tournament will be held Tuesday and Thursday, Dec. 16 and 18 at Grand Lake High School.

Hackberry, Johnson Bayou, Grand Lake and South Cameron boys and girls will play in the tournament as follows:

Tuesday, Dec. 16 - 3:30 p.m. - Hackberry vs. South Cameron (girls).
5 p.m. - Hackberry vs.

South Cameron (boys).
6:30 p.m. - Grand Lake vs. Johnson Bayou (girls).

8 p.m. - Grand Lake vs. Johnson Bayou (boys).
Thursday, Dec. 18 - 3:30 p.m. - TBA vs. TBA (girls).

5 p.m. - TBA vs. TBA (boys).
6:30 p.m. - Grand Lake vs. TBA (girls).

8 p.m. - Grand Lake vs. TBA (boys).

Two LNG facilities seen for Sabine area

By DAN WALLACH
THE BEAUMONT
ENTERPRISE

A Houston-based energy company intends to develop a liquefied natural gas receiving terminal on undeveloped land in Cameron Parish on the Louisiana side of the Sabine-Neches Ship Channel, the president of Cheniere LNG said Monday.

Keith Meyer, Cheniere LNG's president, said in a telephone interview that the company has acquired a long-term lease on 500 acres across the ship channel from Sabine Pass and will apply for a permit from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, probably in January.

Development of the site probably would cost about \$500 million, Meyer said.

When built, and if operating at capacity, Cheniere probably would bring in the large vessels every day and a half, or about 200 per year, Meyer said.

ExxonMobil Corp. recently announced it intended to file a permit application with the FERC in a high-profile announcement ceremony featuring Texas Gov. Rick Perry at Sabine Pass High School.

However, ExxonMobil has not yet selected Sabine Pass as its site. The oil giant also is looking at sites in Mobile, Ala., and Corpus Christi.

"We are a small company, but we're very focused on creating LNG terminals," Meyer said. "We intend to be North America's premier LNG receiving terminal."

LNG is natural gas in a liquefied form. At the source, the gas is cooled to minus-260 degrees Fahrenheit for loading aboard specially built ves-

sels. At the receiving end, the liquid is pumped into storage tanks and is regasified to pump, under pressure, into pipelines.

Demand for natural gas has been mushrooming in the United States because it is cleaner burning than other fossil fuels. It is increasingly popular for use in homes, businesses and by electric power-generation plants.

Prices for natural gas are almost double the \$3 per thousand cubic feet price of a year ago as domestic production and imports from Canada.

Cheniere's site is on 500 acres of undeveloped land owned by Albert Crain of Crain Bros. Inc., a construction company.

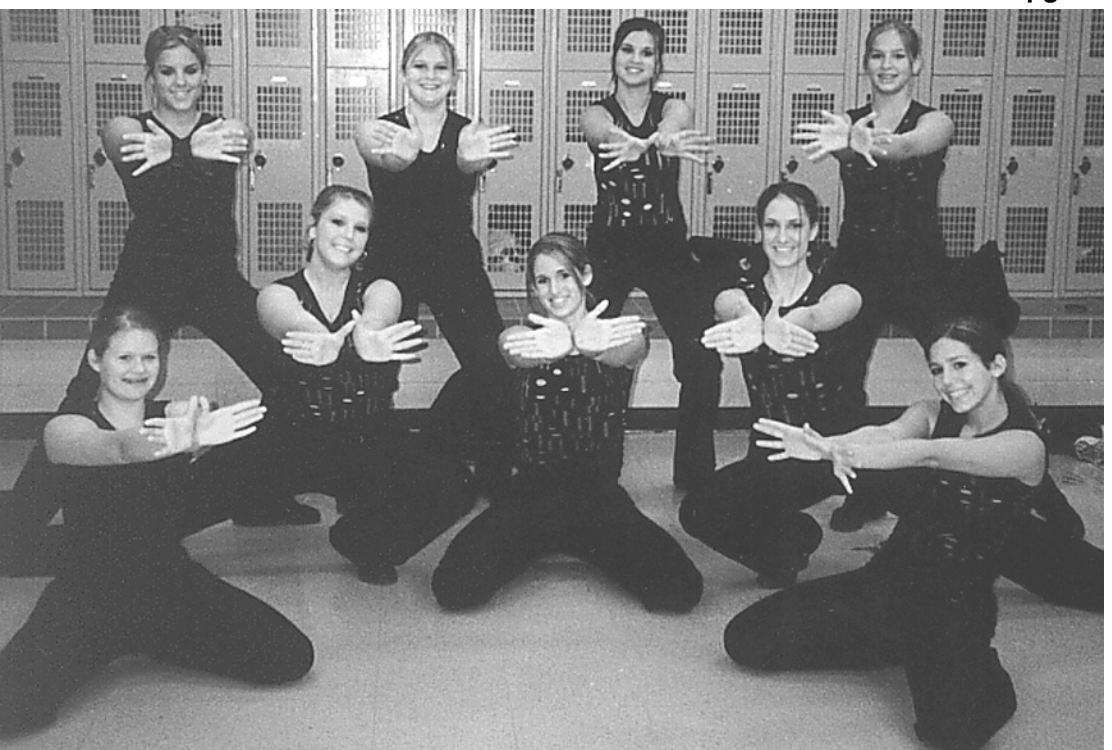
"It's 580 acres, a very big site," Meyer said. "The Sabine Pilots (Association) helped us design the berthing area."

Meyer said Cheniere looked at the Sabine Pass site that ExxonMobil is considering. Meyer said the Sabine Pilots told Cheniere the current that passes that area can be very fast. Meyer said LNG ships must back into their slips, and a fast current makes the maneuver tricky.

He said the Crain site is not near any residential area, as the ExxonMobil site would be, and is 3.7 miles from the open water of the Gulf of Mexico, making for quick turn-arounds.

While ExxonMobil has signed a 25-year supply agreement with the Persian Gulf emirate of Qatar for liquefied natural gas, Cheniere has not yet selected a supplier, Meyer said.

Cont. on pg. 3



THE 2003-04 HACKBERRY High School Dancers are shown above: (kneeling, from left) Sarah White, co-captain Alexis Simon, Jena Sanner, Hillary LaBove, Natasha Hicks; (standing) Lindsey Mire, Colleen Doucette, co-captain Desiree Picou, and Morgan Hicks. They will be performing Jan. 8 at the Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival in Cameron.

FUNERALS

MRS. BETTE T. BILLEAUD

Funeral services for Mrs. Bette T. Billeaud of Johnson Bayou were held Monday, Dec. 1 at Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church with burial in Head of the Hollow Cemetery at Johnson Bayou. Father Roland Vaughn officiated and Robison Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Mrs. Billeaud died Friday, Nov. 28, 2003, in Port Arthur, Tex. A native of Opelousas she was a long time resident of Johnson Bayou. She was a member of Our Lady of Assumption Catholic Church and the Catholic Daughters.

She is survived by two daughters, Lydia Menard of Sunset and Peggy Thibodeaux, Lafayette; one son, Gene Courville, Sunset; two sisters Loretta Brinkhaus and Ivy Laverne, both of Opelousas and one stepson Garland Billeaud, Port LaVacca, Tex.; 16 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren.

THOMAS CAMERON

Funeral services for Thomas Newton Cameron, 88, of Lake Charles were held Sunday, Nov. 30, in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Moss Bluff. The Rev. Mitsy George officiated. Burial was in Graceland Cemetery.

Mr. Cameron died Thursday, Nov. 27, 2003, in his residence.

He was a native of Chickasha, Okla., and moved to Lake Charles in 1964. He served the Army during World War II. He graduated from the University of Texas.

He retired as plant superintendent of Tennessee Gas Transmission Co. compressor station in Grand Chenier after 25 years of employment.

Survivors include his wife, Elaine Cameron; one brother, Jim Cameron, Corpus Christi, Tex.; three sisters, Modell Welch, Ahwahnee, Calif., Juana Coffman, Norwalk, Calif., and Wanda Wise, New Braunfels, Tex.; and several nieces and nephews.

JOHN W. RATCLIFF

Funeral services for John W. Ratcliff, 56, of Welsh were held Tuesday, Dec. 2, in Hixon Funeral Home of Welsh. Burial was in Lacassine Cemetery.

He was a native of Orange, Tex., and had moved from Cameron to Lacassine 20 years ago. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Welsh. He was a chaplain of the Welsh Jaycees from 1994-1997.

Survivors include his father, Henry H. Ratcliff of Lake Charles; one brother, Carloe Gerald Ratcliff,

Kennard, Tex.; and one sister, Rhonda Sue Steinmetz, Lafayette.



E. Warren Miller

EDWARD WARREN MILLER

Funeral services for Edward Warren Miller, 86, of Oak Grove, were held Saturday, Nov. 29 in the Oak Grove Baptist Church with the Rev. Wallace Primeaux, Jr. officiating. Burial was in Miller Cemetery.

Mr. Miller died Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2003 in a Lake Charles care center.

He was a charter member of Oak Grove Baptist church and served as a deacon. He was self-employed all of his life, running a cotton gin, grocery store, a motel and a dump-truck business.

He is survived by his wife Ruby of Creole; four daughters, Frances Carol Miller and Judy Miller Rutherford, both of Creole, Karen Miller Boudreaux and Donna Miller Fletcher, both of Lake Charles; eight grandchildren; four great-grandsons and one great-great-granddaughter.

LEON RICHARD

Funeral services for Leon Richard, 100, were held Saturday, Nov. 29, from Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The Rev. Joseph McGrath officiated. Burial was in Our Lady of The Marsh Cemetery of Little Chenier.

Mr. Richard died Wednesday, Nov. 26, 2003, in a nursing center in Welsh.

Mr. Richard was born in Rayne and moved to Creole when he was 7 years old. He married Lite Marie Trahan on July 11, 1925, and had celebrated 78 years of marriage. He was a guide, hunter and trapper all of his life. He was a guide for Win Hawkins Oak Grove Hunting Club from 1943 to 1992. Mr. Richard was also a cattleman and rancher.

Survivors include his wife, Lite Marie Trahan Richard of Little Chenier; one son, LeRoy Richard, Iowa; one brother, Oris Richard, Lake Charles; one sister, Ena Dronet, Lake Charles; three grandchildren and six-great grandchildren.

Hackberry News

Hackberry Catholic Church parishioners will take pictures Dec. 4, 5 and 6 at the Hackberry Community Center.

A CCD teacher is still needed for the 9th grade. If interested call the rectory at 762-3365.

Lagniappe Two Retirement Home Living Notes

By Geneva Griffith



It has been a very busy week here around the Village Woods. In fact I have been so busy Beau and I have missed our evening walk around the compound for several days.

We had our annual Thanksgiving dinner the other night in the club house, with 80 present. We had a wonderful meal prepared by some very good cooks that live on the premises.

A friend of my daughter, who is manager of a local television station, gave us 6 tickets to the Broadway musical "Saturday Night Fever." It was a very lively musical which we enjoyed very much. We learned it was the longest running solo play in Broadway history.

Cherie and Pat had a football party the other night to watch the LSU game, and root for LSU. It was a very good game and had everyone on their toes until the very last minute. I do not want to think what would have happened if LSU had not won. This is really a football town, and the fans show it in so many ways.

This is certainly a small world. Would you believe that the unit we bought belonged to the mother of a girl whose husband at the time was in Cherie's and Pat's wedding and she has been to my house where we had the reception.

The following is a copy of the first Lagniappe on March 14, 1958 in the Cameron Pilot.

Lagniappe By Geneva Griffith

The main topic of conversation this week was Aunt Nona Welch's surprise housewarming, and I do mean SURPRISE. It couldn't have happened to a more deserving person. She has given hundreds of presents in her lifetime to four generations of Cameron residents for weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, etc.

Everyone was trying so hard to keep it a secret from her. Albert Colligan, our local druggist, said no one could ever tell him again that a woman couldn't keep a secret because every woman in Cameron Parish knew this one.

Have you noticed how nicely Arthur Murphy and Roland Roux are preparing the court house lawn for landscaping?

The Civil Defense has "pulled up stakes" in Cameron. The Police Jury will wind up the work still left to do.

Knights & Daughters set party

The J. P. Boudoin Sr. Knights of Columbus Council 3014 of Creole, will hold their Christmas party combining with the Court Mary Olive Catholic Daughters Wednesday, Dec. 10, with a social at 6 p.m. and supper at 7 p.m.

All spouses of deceased members are invited to attend.

This will be a covered dish supper. The Knights will furnish the meats.

There will be a Christmas tree. Men bring men's gifts, women bring women's gifts.

The Knights will deliver Christmas baskets on Friday morning, Dec. 5 for Sacred Heart parish.

Deb, Teen & Jr. Miss Pageants set

The Deb, Teen, & Junior Miss Cameron Parish pageants will be held Friday, Jan. 9, 2004. Girls, ages 10-12 years of age will compete in Deb Miss. Ages 13-14 years of age will compete in Teen Miss. Ages 15-16 years of age will compete in the Junior Miss division.

Entry forms deadline is Monday, Dec. 29, 2003. For more information call Vicki Little at 542-4934 after 5 p.m.

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See a Centennial representative for more details.

Federation urges state to acquire Elmer's Island

The Louisiana Wildlife Federation has repeated its call for the state to acquire and manage Elmer's Island for wildlife conservation and compatible public use. Access to the 1700-acre barrier beachfront on the Gulf of Mexico across Caminada Pass from Grand Isle, about 50 miles south of New Orleans, was gated two years ago and the property is up for sale.

The LWF renewed its appeal as the findings from an economic and user preference study of Elmer's Island by the LSU Center for Natural Resource Economics and Policy was released. The CNREP report indicates a strong desire by outdoor recreation seekers to restore access to the fishing, camping, birding and beachcombing that Elmer's Island afforded the public for over 30 years. It also suggests that there would be substantial fee-generated income and economic activity associated with reopening the area.

"This new report highlights the value of Elmer's Island to the people and the economy of Louisiana," said LWF executive director Randy Lanctot. "The Federation believes that purchasing the property is a wise investment of state dollars, and that belief is corroborated by the findings of the CNREP report."

The LWF initiated its Elmer's Island acquisition campaign in the Spring of 2002. Federation past president and Grand Isle camp owner, Keith Saucier, discovered the locked gate and "for sale" sign when stopping by on his way home from a weekend at his camp. Disturbed by the loss of this wonderful family fishing and camping area, now closed after 30 years of public use, he brought the matter before the delegates to the LWF's annual convention.

Through the Federation's

resolutions process it adopted a position that called for acquisition and reopening of Elmer's Island as a public recreation and wildlife conservation area. The LWF developed a proposal and solicited the support of Governor Foster and other key public officials. The effort was joined early on by the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program. Saucier assembled a team of Elmer's Island advocates to organize grassroots support for the idea. As a result, thousands of individuals have signed petitions and hundreds of letters have been sent to the Governor's Office urging the state to acquire Elmer's Island. Newspapers and outdoor writers and broadcasters have editorialized in support, and dozens of organizations have endorsed state acquisition, including parish and local governments and the Louisiana Legislature. A list of these organizations is posted on the website, <http://www.elfersisland.org>. The Legislature approved funds for acquisition during the 2003 legislative session.

"This report gives new life to the Elmer's Island acquisition campaign," said LWF's Saucier. "Acquiring Elmer's Island for the people of the state is a great opportunity for Governor Foster to leave a legacy that will be much appreciated and long remembered by those of us who cherish the simple pleasures of the great outdoors in Louisiana."

Demonstration Day to be held at Grand Lake

Cameron Parish 4-H would like to invite you to Grand Lake High School on December 6th for our Demonstration Day.

Registration will begin at 8:30. Categories include Agriculture, Home Economics, Conservation, Environmental Threat, Small Engines, Dog Care, Soybean, Electric Energy, Gourmet Foods, Rice Cookery, Horticulture, and Any Other.

Winners will receive prizes, and some contest include the opportunity to participate at 4-H Short Course in June 2004. Deadline for entries is Monday, December 1st.



BAKER COMPANY, part of the 7th Marines, 1st Battalion, only Marine Infantry Battalion left in Iraq, share this sentiment with our fellow countrymen and the world - that "WE HAVE NOT FORGOTTEN" and are proud to serve our country." Semper Fi (Photo courtesy of First Sgt. Dave Jobe)

Digital service now being provided for Creole folks

Cameron Communications has officially launched the new 3-dimensional digital service in Creole. This unique product provides digital telephone, high-speed digital Internet connectivity, plus clear digital television entertainment all over existing copper telephone wire, simultaneously without any disruptions in service.

Cameron Communications' three-dimensional digital is unique because it also allows customers to receive and review caller identification (Caller ID) information directly on their television screen. No other area television provider offers an on-

screen caller ID and Voice Mail indicator. A Voice Mail indicator appears on-screen to notify viewers of waiting voice mail messages.

DigitalVision provides up to 138 channels of quality entertainment. Digital technology allows for seven Pay-Per-View channels, 30 music selections, onscreen program guide, as well as packages offering up to 24-premium movie (HBO, Showtime, Cinemax, Starz, The Movie Channel, and Flix). DigitalVision includes all local channels at no extra cost, and it requires no satellite dish, external antenna, or equipment purchase

LNG facilities

cont. from pg. 1

He said Trinidad, off the northern coast of South America, is a major world supplier of natural gas.

Nigeria and Algeria also would be large-volume suppliers, as would Norway and possibly Venezuela later this decade.

Meyer said the Sabine-Neches Ship Channel is perfectly suited for LNG carriers, and that Sabine Pass is one of the best locations in the country for a terminal.

"Within 15 miles, there is 5 billion cubic feet per day takeaway capacity (in pipelines)," he said. "A receptive community is very important, and a local labor pool is very important."

Meyer said the project would employ an average of 300 construction workers with a peak of 600 during a three-year construction period. The terminal would employ 40 to 60 full-time plus

another 40 or so indirectly. "I think the channel can handle more than one facility. It's realistic to have two," he said.

At the Sabine Pass terminal, Cheniere's capacity would be 10 billion cubic feet per day of storage with 2.6 billion cubic feet per day of "sendout."

Meyer estimated the terminal's daily capacity is enough to supply about 20 percent of the current Texas natural gas demand of 11.5 billion cubic feet per day.

"Much of the gas would be dispersed into interstate pipelines," he said.

He called ExxonMobil's announcement earlier in November as somewhat coincidental.

"We've been planning this six weeks ago," he said.

Mitigation Plans to be discussed

The Cameron Parish Police Jury--Office of Emergency Preparedness will hold a Disaster Mitigation Act 2000 public meeting Thursday, Dec. 11, at 5 p.m. at the Police Jury Meeting Room to provide information regarding the federal requirements to develop a Disaster Mitigation Plan and provide a forum for input from the public.

The Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 focuses on the need to conduct pre-disaster infrastructure mitigation planning to reduce disaster losses. The purpose of the act is to establish a National Disaster Hazard Mitigation Program that:

*Reduces loss of life and property, human suffering, economic disruption and dis-

S. Cameron FFA to sell barbecue Sun.

South Cameron High FFA will sell barbecue dinners Sunday, Dec. 7 at the KC Hall in Creole. A variety of items will also be available for silent auction. Plate lunches will be served for either take-out or dine-in after 8:30 Mass and until 1 p.m. The silent auction will also close at 1 p.m. and the items will be delivered to those who are not there at closing.

For more information, contact Nicky Rodrigue at 542-4418 or 515-1354.



aster assistance costs resulting from natural disasters; and

*Provides a source of pre-disaster hazard mitigation funding that will assist states and local governments in implementing effective hazard mitigation measures that are designed to ensure the continued functionality of critical services and facilities after a natural disaster.

Members from the DMA 2000 Steering Committee will be in attendance at this public meeting. The committee is comprised of representatives from throughout the parish and includes representatives from local and parish government, business, industry, community service organizations and interested individuals.

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Choice of any 6 Cold Meat Subs (Feeds 12, Snacks 24)
Ham, Turkey, Club, BMT, Seafood, Tuna, Roast Beef

— Please Call 1 Hour in Advance —

Cookie Platter

Choose From: • 3 Dozen • 4 Dozen • 5 Dozen
• 6 Dozen • 10 Dozen

From All of us to All of you. . .

happy holidays

OPEN: SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
10:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.

501 Marshall Street, Cameron
Phone-In or Fax Orders Welcome
Phone: 775-5814 or 775-5818 Fax: 775-5907

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Go Digital!
Telephone
Television
High-Speed Internet
all on one bill!

Free Installation - Now For A Limited Time

Imagine...

a single phone line so powerful it delivers reliable feature-rich phone service to make your life easier, high-speed internet access to save you time, and now digital television to entertain you – all in a money-saving package.

DoubleVision	\$74⁹⁵
* Unlimited Local Calling with Custom Calling Features including On-Screen Caller ID * DigitalVision with 114 digital selections including local channels	
DoubleVision PLUS	\$114⁹⁵
* Unlimited Local Calling with Custom Calling Features including On-Screen Caller ID * DigitalVision with 114 digital selections including local channels * PLUS – Digital Theater with all 24 Premium Movie Channels	
3D Deluxe	\$99⁹⁵
* Unlimited Local Calling with Custom Calling Features including On-Screen Caller ID * DigitalVision with 114 digital selections including local channels * PLUS – High-Speed Internet Access (128K)	
3D Xtreme	\$134⁹⁵
* Unlimited Local Calling with Custom Calling Features including On-Screen Caller ID * DigitalVision with 114 digital selections including local channels * High-Speed Internet Access (128K) * Digital Theater with all 24 Premium Movie Channels	

Now available in Creole – Cameron – Hackberry and Holly Beach

Not available in all areas. Some restrictions may apply.

Call Today! 1-800-737-3900

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Year after year we receive the highest honors for exemplary customer service. Whether you need an oil change or loaner car while you have your car serviced, we're here to serve you, our customer. Locally owned with the same **great service.**

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2002 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Tony Trahan
Sales Manager

South Cameron High School News

SCHOLARSHIPS

All seniors are asked to go by Mr. Broussard's office for the following applications:
 *U. S. Jaycee International Senate Scholarship due 1/10/04.
 *Life Science Scholarship due 1/31/04.
 *Texas A & M. Scholarship due 1/9/04.

Dec. 9 - Basketball Hamilton Christian (away).
 Dec. 11 - Basketball Lake Arthur (girls only, away).
 Dec. 16 - 3rd & 6th hour, six weeks test. Parish basketball tourney, Grand Lake.
 Dec. 17 - 4th & 7th hour, six weeks test.

Basketball Roundup

BOYS

Johnson Bayou 54; Grand Lake 52 - Jared Trahan led the Rebels with 25 points and 7 rebounds. Leading scorer for the Hornets was Ronald Courville with 22 points.
Hackberry 45; Sulphur JV 43 (OT) - Brett Stansel scored 17 points as the Mustangs improved to 8-5 on the year.

GIRLS

South Cameron 46; DeQuincy 25 - Dnae Desonnier led all scorers with 20 points. Courtney Conner added 10 as the Lady Tarpons move to 2-0 on the young season.
Johnson Bayou 46; Grand Lake 39 - Kayla Barrentine scored 12 points for the Lady Rebels. K. Lavergne had 11 points for Grand Lake and B. Carroll added 10.

Queens & Kings are invited

If your son or daughter holds a Baby, Toddler, Tiny, Petite, or Little Miss or Mister title and would like to be a visiting king or queen in the Little Miss/Mister Cameron Parish Contest in conjunction with the Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival, contact Telesha Bertrand at 337-542-4127.

TARPON SPIRIT THROW

Tarpon Spirit afghans are in. Parents and community members can purchase their afghan by calling or coming by the school office.

4-H NEWS

Demonstration Day is Saturday, Dec. 6 at Grand Lake School. Livestock members are reminded that the livestock entries are due to the 4-H office or to a FFA advisor on Dec. 8.

SENIOR PICTURES

Senior pictures have been rescheduled to Tuesday, Jan. 13. All seniors will take the pictures on that day. These pictures will not cost the student anything. But you may order from the proofs that you will receive.

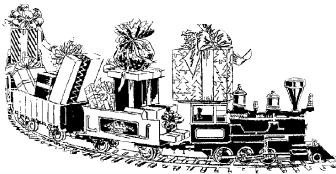
SIX WEEKS TEST

Six weeks test will be before the Christmas Holidays. The schedule is:
 Dec. 16 - 3rd. hour & 6th. hour test.
 Dec. 17 - 4th. hours & 7th. hour test.
 Dec. 18 - 1st. hour & 5th. hour test.
 Dec. 19 - 2nd. hour test.

SCHOOL EVENTS

Dec. 5 - Basketball, Bell City, home.
 Dec. 6 - Demonstration Day, Grand Lake.

STEEL ROOFING
 GALVALUME & PAINTED
\$9.95 PER SQUARE
 From
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 ROLL UP & SLIDING DOOR SYSTEMS
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JOB OPENING

Waterworks District #10, serving the Johnson Bayou-Holly Beach area is accepting applications until Tues., Dec. 9, 2003 at 6 p.m. for the position of part-time/relief office administrator-billing clerk. Applicants need to be proficient in general book-keeping and have basic computer skills.

Applications may be picked up at the Waterworks Office in Johnson Bayou located at 159 Berwick Road, Johnson Bayou, Louisiana, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Waterworks District #10 is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, age, sex, handicap, national origin or political or religious opinions.

RUN: Nov. 27 & Dec. 4 (N-57)

We've helped protect your car, home, and life...

Now let us protect your health, for the LONG TERM!

Southern Farm Bureau Life's Qualified Long Term Care Insurance Policies

When there's a need for extended care in your family, the costs can be a burden.

Your Farm Bureau Insurance agent can offer two policies: Long Term Care and Nursing Facility Care. One of these policies can help you face the future.

Features available include:

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- Guaranteed renewable.
- No prior hospitalization required.
- No obligation 30-day free look.

This policy has certain limitations and exclusions which may affect your coverage. For costs and complete details of the coverage, contact your county Farm Bureau Insurance agent,

We're in Hackberry each Wednesday at 399 Main St. Inside DeBarge's Convenience Store
 Phone: 762-4253
 Hwy. 27, Creole
542-4807



Long Term Care policy form numbers 30044Q & 30054Q



Tim Dupont, Special Agent

Helping You Is What We Do Best.

Southern Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company
 Jackson, Mississippi



STUDENTS OF Jolene Atkinson and Merle Trares created hats to decorate the library at Johnson Bayou High School for the Scholastic Book Fair held recently. Helping to promote the theme "Hats off to Reading" are Spencer Conner, Allison Romero, Kascidy Badon, Victorice Erbeling, Michael Trahan, Owen Trahan, Miranda Trahan, Tiffany Caudill, Marissa Jinks, and Nathan Griffith.

Cameron Outdoors

by Loston McEvers

DUCK SEASON ENDS

Usually duck season ends with a bang, but I can't say that this year. I really did great the last week of the first split, getting my limit 5 days in a row with nice ducks like green head mallards, teals, and gadwalls. The last day, it's like you turn a faucet off and wait for the last few drops to fall, but no drops fell, as well as no ducks fell. I have seen a total of 3 green-winged teals. The blind next to me had one scaup and I didn't hear but one other blind by me that shot twice.

I got a chance to hunt 20 days this first split and averaged 5 ducks a day, still I found it slow, because if you didn't get your ducks early, after 7:30 a.m. it's really over. We had some of our big hunting clubs that had 36, 42, 48 ducks per day with 20 or so guides. This hurts. Maybe we'll see colder weather and more ducks down the second split. This will open on Saturday, Dec. 13 and we'll still have 7 days of pintail hunting left (Dec. 13 - Dec. 19) and 30 days of canvasback season (Dec. 20 - Jan. 18).

December is a great month, the birth of our Lord on Christmas Day, waiting for a New Year to come around and still enjoy hunting, and maybe the dream gift you always wanted.

The Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries starts to band wood ducks during December. Garter snakes start to hibernate, brown pelicans start to nest on Queen Bess Island and we should see more ducks come into our area. It's official winter time on Dec. 22 and don't forget to recycle your old Christmas trees.

The Christmas bird count will take place nationwide, while commercial licenses expire.

We don't want to forget Pearl Harbor Day on Dec. 7, and we also don't want to forget our G.I.'s fighting for us overseas, and who'll miss Christmas with their families.

This is the month to catch lots of sheepheads, with the low tide conditions. On Dec. 4, 1996, one of our local fishing guide services owner, Captain Jeff Poe, caught a 9.31 pound speckle trout in Calcasieu Lake, and ranks first in the saltwater flyfishing division. Woodcock season opens on Dec. 18, and let us hope we get some new birds down in our area.

NEWS BRIEF

We have a 12 day break in the split season, that will give us time to do our chores. First day clean up and retie decoys, clean boats and clean shotguns and shell box, re-cane blinds and reset decoys. Now



Happy Birthday
 Maia Noelle
 1 Year Old On
 December 5, 2003
 LOVE, Quade,
 Mom & Dad

that's 3 days gone and there's Christmas shopping for the wife or girlfriend and kids to do and that takes 2 days. Clean up the branches and the yard and your own personal chores takes four days, but here comes the "honey do's". I was lined up for a good 6 day week, but I just said a couple of words and I don't have time for all I have to do, plus do shopping for a special gift for your "honey", if you have that many chores. Well it didn't take long for the answer, oh if you only do this one thing for me, the rest can wait. I think I can handle that one chore and still have a few days to lounge around the house. A honey here, a honey there and a gift, can sure make a difference.

SHRIMP SEASON

The closing date for Zone 3 shrimping in inshore waters is set for Dec. 16 at sunset. Zone 3 extends from the western shore of Vermillion Bay and Southwest Pass at Marsh Island westward to the Louisiana-Texas state line.

"DID YA NO"

Our neighboring state of Texas, hosts the largest concentration of wintering geese (snow, blues, ross, white fronted and lesser Canada) in North America.

P. S. I just figured out that those extra days I don't have to do "Honey Do's", I'll just go fishing, rabbit hunting and snipe hunting, oh well, you get the idea.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

Fri., Dec. 5 - 6:54 a.m. & 5:12 p.m.
 Sat., Dec. 6 - 6:55 a.m. & 5:12 p.m.
 Sun, Dec. 7 - 6:56 a.m. & 5:12 p.m.
 Mon., Dec. 8 - 6:57 a.m. & 5:13 p.m.
 Tues., Dec. 9 - 6:57 a.m. & 5:13 p.m.
 Wed., Dec. 10 - 6:58 a.m. & 5:13 p.m.
 Thurs., Dec. 11 - 6:59 a.m. & 5:13 p.m.

School lunch menus told

Lunch menus for Cameron Parish Schools are as follows:
 Thursday, Dec. 4 - Beef nachoes, tomato cup, ranch beans, hash brown patty, cinnamon rolls, catsup.

Friday, Nov. 5 - Fish portion, baked beans, oven fries, banana pudding, catsup, hamburger bun.

Monday, Nov. 8 - Soft tacos, fixings cup, refried beans, apple crisp, flour tortillas.

Tuesday, Nov. 9 - Country fried steak, mashed potatoes, green beans, brown gravy, peanut butter spread, yeast rolls.

Wednesday, Nov. 10 - Spaghetti and meat sauce, buttered corn, tossed salad, peanut butter cookie, garlic toast.

All meals are served with a choice of milk.



DEMOLITION CONTRACTOR

The Cameron Parish Police Jury is receiving sealed bids for the demolition and removal of condemned structures and clean-up of overgrown lots in different locations of the Parish.

To obtain a bid sheet, you may contact the Cameron Parish Police Jury Office at 110 Smith Circle/P.O. Box 1280, Cameron, LA 70631 or call (337) 775-5718 ext. 111. Sealed bids must be received by 2:00 p.m. on Monday, December 8, 2003. "SEALED BID" must be marked on the outside of the envelope.

RUN: Nov. 20, 27 & Dec. 4 (N-44)

Give The Christmas Gift That Keeps Giving All Year Long...

A Gift Subscription To...

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Order your Gift Subscriptions today by mailing the Coupon below along with your check or money order to: THE CAMERON PILOT, P. O. Box 995, DeQuincy, La. 70633 or go by Clipper Office Supply in Cameron.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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 FROM: INAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

We Wish Everyone Happy Holidays

Along With Your Subscription, we will forward a Christmas Card Announcing your Gift!

1-800-256-7323

Johnson B. Honor lists

Johnson Bayou School Second Six Weeks Banner and Honor Roll are announced as follows:

Banner Roll

1st Grade - Catarina Hebert, Hunter McGee.
 2nd Grade - Rayce Romero.
 3rd Grade - Allison Romero.
 4th Grade - Kascidy Badon, Britney Bourriague, Bethany Oswald, Harmony Trahan.
 Ninth Grade - Bailey Oswald.
 Tenth Grade - Katrina McGee, Laura Trahan, Katie Young.
 Twelfth Grade - Christopher Welch.

Honor Roll

First Grade - Kaine Badon, Kasa Benoit, Kevin Harrington, Daria Jinks, Neal Miguez, Derek Storm, Tristan Trahan, Keylee Young.
 Second Grade - Briana Romero, Kirsten Webb.

Third Grade - Blake Badon, Kendal Badon, Bailey Bourriague, Sarah Conner, William Cramer, Zachary Hebert, Colton Jinks, Skylar Jinks, Morgan Leger, Dylan Morrison, Byron Romero, Dustin Romero, Kristopher Trahan.

Fourth Grade - Khranna Benoit, Jami LeBoeuf.
 Fifth Grade - Katie Conner, Adam Romero, Tyler Venable.

Seventh Grade - Tabatha Harrington.

Eighth Grade - Tiffany Caudill, Aaron Jinks, Christopher Romero, Destiny Sonnier, Kimberly Trahan.

Ninth Grade - Shalyn Broussard, Holly Simon, Justine Trahan.

Tenth Grade - Cheyenne Hanks, Lacci McNeil.

Eleventh Grade - Sasson Brown, Stephanie Cox, Victor Guidry, Shanna Romero, Rustin Trahan, Gregory Viator.

Twelfth Grade - Damian Badon, Ashley Price, Megan Roberts, Beau Rodrigue.

CLASSIFIEDS

REAL ESTATE

112 MARGARET Lane. Darling starter 3/1 cottage on 1.12 acres in Grand Lake. Roof, central a/c, and mechanical system approx. 5 yrs. old. Additional access possible from rear of property. \$69,900.00.

GRAND Lake - Restricted subdivision, 2000 sq. ft. minimum \$17,500.

Call ERA Moffett Realty, Inc. 436-6639 ext. 261 and ask for Grace - 598-2573 home or 490-5140 pager. 5/15tfc

ARE YOU ready to "Buy" or "Sell" homes, camps or land in Hackberry, Holly Beach, Florida Beach, Constance Beach, Johnson Bayou, Carlyss or Sulphur. Call Kathy w/ Properties by Town and Country at 884-1588. 12/4-11p.

ADORABLE, COUNTRY Cottage located in Grand Lake on an acre. 1820 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 2 bath, Big Front Porch and connecting storage room, two car carport. Call after 5 p.m. 598-2818. 11/13-12/4p.

RV SALES

2003 CLEARANCE Sale! Largest selection ever of Travel Trailers and 5th Wheels on sale. Also check out our motor homes and mini homes. Kite Bros. RV, Hwy 171 N, DeRidder, La. 1-800-456-2724. www.kitebros.com 8/7tfc.

FOR SALE

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

NOTICES

MATTHEW 22 Vs. 23 & 29... Sadducees, which say there is no resurrection... Vs. 29... Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God. 12/4p.

GARAGE SALES

PRE-CHRISTMAS SALE, Saturday, December 6th, at the FaithShare Outreach in Sweet Lake. This will be our 25¢ Sale and will be from 7 a.m. - noon. We are located at 1827 Hwy. 384, 3 miles east of Grand Lake School, (the building with the red doors). Clothes, toys, kitchen items and much, much more. Rain or shine. 11/26-12/4p.

USED AUTOS

1999 NISSAN Quest GXE Minivan. Loaded. Excellent condition. \$6000. Call 538-2511. 12/4c.

ALTERNATOR REPAIR

NIX ALTERNATORS & Starters - Repairs and Rebuilt. Foreign, domestic, boats, auto, truck, industrial, tractors, lawn mowers and outboard motors. 1723 N. Hwy. 171, Lake Charles, La. 433-2813. 3/27-12/25p.

FOR RENT

2 BEDROOM, 1 Bath House For Rent. South Lake Charles. Very private. Good for storm home or elderly couple. 598-2643 after 4 p.m. 12/4-11p.

QUIET, COMFORTABLE, country living near Grand Lake school, only minutes from Lake Charles. Convenient, all-electric 2 bedroom apartments. For information or appointment, call 598-2171. 11/5tfc.

FOR LEASE: Three bedroom, two bath home, 1/4 mile east of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, available November 1, 2003. \$500 per month. Call Eddie Conner, 433-0200 (O), 478-7411 (H). 10/30-11/27c.

A LIGHTWEIGHT answer to heavy duty carpet dirt. The Rug Doctor Mighty Pack is compact, but its cleaning power is anything but lightweight. Rug Doctor's hot water extraction process and vibrating brush clean deeper than anything else. Only \$24.99 (price change due to new, larger capacity machine) per day. Rent a Rug Doctor at Wendell's Electric & Hardware. Main St., Cameron, La. 775-5621. 10/4oamc.

FREE

TO BE given away to a good home, one German Shepherd dog, 2 years old, good pet and guard dog. Call 538-2192 or 538-2671. 12/4p.

Shortbread Cookies

1 1/3 cups corn starch
2 cups all-purpose flour
4 2/3 cups powdered sugar, sifted and divided
2 1/3 cups butter, divided
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
2 1/2 teaspoons grated lemon peel, divided
1/3 cup lemon juice
sprinkles, optional

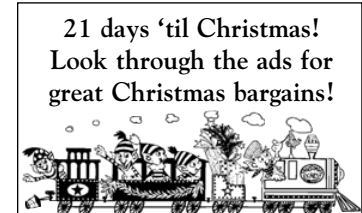
and smooth. Add the corn starch mixture, vanilla and 1 1/2 teaspoons of lemon peel; beat well. (If necessary, refrigerate 1 hour or until easy to handle.)

3. Shape the dough into 1-inch balls and place them 1 1/2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Bake 10 to 12 minutes, or until edges are lightly browned. Cool completely on wire racks.

4. For icing, beat together in a medium bowl the remaining 1/3 cup of butter and the remaining teaspoon of lemon peel until the butter is softened. Add the remaining 4 cups of powdered sugar and

lemon juice; beat until well combined. Add red food coloring, if desired. Decorate cookies with icing and sprinkles in fun designs such as stripes and polka dots. Store in a tightly covered container.

Makes 6 dozen cookies. Consumers can visit www.argo starch.com or www.karosyrup.com for additional, versatile recipes from delicious desserts and glazes to holiday side dishes and drinks.



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- * League
- * Championship
- * Graduation
- * New Baby
- * Bon Voyage
- * Good Luck
- * Engagement
- * Wedding
- * New Home

CAMERON FOOD MART

Community Coffee.....Lb. \$3.59
Grade A Large Eggs.....Doz. \$1.39
Foremost Milk.....Gal. \$2.59
Coke, Dr. Pepper, or Sprite
Reg. or Diet.....6/12 Oz. \$1.79
.....3 Liter Bottle \$1.69
Budweiser or Bud Light.....12/10 Oz. Cans \$7.19
Miller Lite.....12/10 Oz. \$7.19
Inland Valley French Fries
All Cuts.....32 Oz. 3/\$4.00
Pillsbury Cinnamon Rolls.....12 Oz. \$1.49
Blue Bonnet Margarine.....Lb. Qtrs. 2/\$1.00
Hellmans Mayonnaise.....32 Oz. \$2.19
Hunts Squeeze Catsup.....24 Oz. 89c
Kraft Deluxe or Velveeta Style
Macaroni & Cheese.....10-14 Oz. \$1.79
Parade Tomato Sauce.....5 Oz. 5/\$1.00
Parade Corn, Green Beans, Sweet Peas,
Mixed Veg., Carrots or
Potatoes.....14 Oz. Can 3/\$1.00
Kelloggs Rice Krispies or
Honey Smacks.....13-17 Oz. 2/\$5.00
Parade Vegetable Oil.....48 Oz. \$1.49
Tide Detergent All Scents.....87 Oz. \$6.99
Parade Bleach.....96 Oz. 99c
Charmin Ultra.....9 Roll Pkg. \$3.99
Bordens 1/2 Gal. Round
Ice Cream.....\$3.99
Hillshire Mixed Sausage.....Lb. \$1.99
Tyson Skinless Fryer
Breast Filets.....2 1/2 Lb. Bag \$5.99
Bar S Franks.....12 Oz. Pkg. 79c
Sliced Oven Roasted
Turkey Breast.....Lb. \$2.09

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LEGAL NOTICE

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICE OF CONSERVATION INJECTION AND MINING DIVISION

DOCKET NO. IMD 2004-01

Pursuant to the provisions of the laws of the State of Louisiana and particularly Title 30 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950 as amended, and the provisions of Statewide Order No. 29-B, notice is hereby given that the Commissioner of Conservation will conduct a hearing at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, January 14, 2004, in the Annex Meeting Room at the Cameron Parish Police Jury, 110 Smith Circle, Cameron, Louisiana.

At such hearing, the Commissioner, or his designated representative, will hear testimony relative to the application of Environmental Partners, LLC, 1502 West University Avenue, Lafayette, Louisiana 70506. The applicant requests approval from the Office of Conservation to temporarily store and treat exploration and production waste (E & P Waste), specifically oil-base drilling waste (E & P Waste Type 02) by means of low temperature thermal desorption separation for oil and/or solids recovery, reclamation, and reuse. The facility is located in Section 030, Township 15 South, Range 10 West in Cameron Parish, 501 Gulf Beach Road, Cameron, Louisiana.

The application is available for inspection by contacting Ms. Armanda Watson, Office of Conservation, Injection & Mining Division, Room 817 of the LaSalle Building, 617 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, or by visiting the Cameron Parish Police Jury in Cameron, Louisiana, or the Cameron Parish Library in Cameron, Louisiana. Information may be received by calling Ms. Armanda Watson at 225/342-5515.

All interested persons will be afforded an opportunity to present data, views or arguments, orally or in writing, at said public hearing. Written comments which will not be presented at the hearing must be received no later than 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 21, 2004, at the Baton Rouge Office. Comments should be directed to:

**Office of Conservation
Injection and Mining Division
P. O. Box 94275
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9275
Re: Docket No. IMD 2004-01
Commercial Facility
Cameron Parish**

RUN: Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11 (N 30)

DYNEGY MIDSTREAM SERVICES, LIMITED PARTNERSHIP AND DYNEGY NGL PIPELINE COMPANY

NATURAL GAS LIQUIDS NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Parishes in Southwest Louisiana
Acadia, Calcasieu, Cameron & Jefferson Davis

Counties in Texas
Chambers, Hardin, Jefferson, Liberty & Orange

PIPELINE SAFETY

Dynegy Midstream Services, Limited Partnership ("Dynegy"), is the operator of pipelines that transport Gas/Natural Gas Liquids/Highly Volatile Liquids (HVL's) and/or liquid products in the states of Louisiana and Texas.

For your personal protection, and for the protection of our pipelines to ensure continuous operation, please follow these safety procedures.

EVACUATIONS: Contact Dynegy 48 hours prior to any excavation, construction or similar activity occurring in or near the area of Dynegy's pipelines. Line markers and signs generally mark the approximate location of Dynegy's pipelines. However, personnel are available to locate and mark exact locations and help work activities to ensure public safety, minimize impacts and mitigate interference to service. Dynegy pipeline location service is free of charge.

EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS ARE LISTED ON AERIAL MARKERS & SIGNS.

FOR PIPELINE LOCATION AND EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CALL
1-800-4TEXLOU / 1-800-483-9583 (24 Hours)
(337) 762-4833 (Day Only)

EMERGENCIES: If you notice pressure escaping or a vapor cloud escaping from a Dynegy pipeline, or fire nearby:

- Do not enter or pass through the product vapor cloud
- Evacuate the area immediately. Do not attempt to correct the problem
- Notify local law enforcement agencies, the fire department and Dynegy
- Do not return to the area, and help keep others from the area

Dynegy Midstream Services, Limited Partnership and Dynegy NGL Pipeline Company are members of the following One-Call Locate Systems:

Louisiana One Call 1-800-272-3020
Lone Star Notification 1-800-669-8344

SAFETY IS OUR PRIMARY CONCERN

Dynegy Midstream Services, L.P.
1399 Davison Road
Sulphur, LA 70665

DYNEGY

LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE BY OWNER OF ACCEPTANCE OF WORK
 This is to advise that the contract between Cameron Parish Police Jury and R. E. Heidt Construction Company, Inc., dated August 18, 2003, in the amount of \$46,101.00, which was recorded on August 18, 2003, in Mortgage Book No. 283, bearing File No. 282293 of the Records of Mortgages for Cameron Parish, Louisiana, is substantially complete and was accepted by Cameron Parish Police Jury on November 3, 2003, and was recorded on November 10, 2003.
 Any person or persons holding a claim against said contract for Kathy Road Overlay Project; Cameron Parish, Louisiana; LEI Project No. 03-022, should file a claim with the Clerk of Court of Cameron Parish, Louisiana, on or before December 25, 2003.
 Cameron Parish Police Jury /s/Charles Precht, III, President
 RUN: Nov. 20, Dec. 4, 11 (N 31)

NOTICE OF BID
 The Cameron Parish School Board is advertising for bids for surplus school buses. Bids will be received at the Cameron Parish School Board Office on or before the hour of 11:00 a.m. on Monday, December 8, 2003 on the following:
 Bus #2357 - 1985 Thomas body with 6.9 diesel engine, has bad transmission.
 Bus #6688 - 1985 Carpenter body with 9.0 diesel engine.
 Bus #6638 - 1985 Carpenter body with 9.0 diesel engine.
 Bus #6657 - 1985 Carpenter body with 9.0 diesel engine.
 Bus #6642 - 1985 Carpenter body with 9.0 diesel engine.
 Bus #0464 - 1991 Carpenter body with 7.3 diesel engine.
 All bus engines were running when they were taken out of service. All Carpenter buses are part of the June advisory on defective buses and must have scrap noted on the title when sold. If bidding on more than one bus, each bus must have a separate bid. Check or money order in the amount of the bid must be sealed in an envelope, labeled "Surplus Bus # _____" and mailed to: Cameron Parish School Board, P. O. Box 1548, Cameron, LA 70631. Bus description must be indicated on check or money order. Unsuccessful bids will be returned so please include address inside bid.
 Please call Ron Vining, Maintenance Supervisor, at 337-775-5784, ext. 14 with any questions. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids submitted.
 Cameron Parish School Board /s/Douglas Chance
DOUGLAS CHANCE,
SUPERINTENDENT
 RUN: Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 4 (N 38)

LEGAL NOTICE
 This is to advise that the Cameron Parish Waterworks District No. 11 meeting in regular session convened on the 10th day of October 2003 accepted as substantially complete and satisfactory the work performed under Project Number 2003-02: Distribution Improvements in the Grandlake Area pursuant to the certain contract between F. D. Shay, Contractor, Inc. and said Cameron Parish Waterworks District No. 11 under File No. 281443, in the Book of Mortgages, Cameron Parish, Louisiana.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that any person or persons having claims arising out of the furnishing of labor, supplies, material, etc., in the construction of the said work should file said claim with the Clerk of Court of Cameron Parish, Louisiana on or before forty-five (45) days after the first publication hereof, all in the manner and form as prescribed by law. After the elapse of said time, the Cameron Parish Waterworks District No. 11 will pay all sums due in the absence of any such claims or liens.
 BY: Secretary
 RUNS: Nov. 20, 27, Dec. 4, 11, 18, 25, 2003 & Jan. 1, 2004 - N 47

NOTICE FOR BIDS
CAMERON PARISH WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 7 will accept sealed bids until 3:00 p.m. on December 15th, 2003 for the following items:
 Sale of surplus equipment, sold as is, where is. Items must be removed within 30 days after acceptance of bid award.
 Bid forms may be obtained by going by Cameron Parish Waterworks District No. 7 Office at 132 Raymond Richard Road, Creole, Louisiana or by calling (337)542-4718 between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.
 RUNS: Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11 - N 58

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
 Sealed bids will be opened and publicly read by the Purchasing Section of the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority (LAFA), 5825 Florida Blvd., Suite 1221, Baton Rouge, LA, Thursday, December 19, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. for the following:
LAF1165/0213 - LACASSINE SYRUP PLANT
 The Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority (LAFA) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to all qualified companies for a proposal for FORTY (40) SHORT TONS MILL CRANE FOR THE LACASSINE SYRUP PLANT. Location will be Lacassine, Louisiana, Jefferson Davis Parish.
 The Request for Proposal provides a general description of the Project as well as instructions for submitting proposal.
 This announcement does not commit the Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority (LAFA) to award a contract or to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of proposals. LAFA reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, all proposals submitted and/or to cancel this announcement. Any contract awarded shall be based upon the proposal most advantageous to the state, cost

and other factors considered. All contracts are subject to the availability of funds.
 No bids will be received after the date and hour specified. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities. Additional information can be seen on the internet at www.ladaf.state.la.us or specifications can be obtained from Hilary Stephenson, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. BIDS OPEN: Thursday, DECEMBER 19, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. HILARY STEPHENSON
 LOUISIANA AGRICULTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY
 RUN: Dec. 4, 11 - (D 1)

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
 Sealed bids will be opened and publicly read by the Purchasing Section of the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority (LAFA), 5825 Florida Blvd., Suite 1221, Baton Rouge, LA, Thursday, December 19, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. for the following:
LAF1165/0307 - LACASSINE SYRUP PLANT
 The Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority (LAFA) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to all qualified companies for the JUICE CLARIFIER FOR THE LACASSINE SYRUP PLANT. Location will be Lacassine, Louisiana, Jefferson Davis Parish.
 The Request for Proposal provides a general description of the Project as well as instructions for submitting proposal.
 This announcement does not commit the Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority (LAFA) to award a contract or to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of proposals. LAFA reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, all proposals submitted and/or to cancel this announcement. Any contract awarded shall be based upon the proposal most advantageous to the state, cost and other factors considered. All contracts are subject to the availability of funds.
 No bids will be received after the date and hour specified. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities. Additional information can be seen on the internet at www.ladaf.state.la.us or specifications can be obtained from Hilary Stephenson, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. BIDS OPEN: Thursday, DECEMBER 19, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. HILARY STEPHENSON
 LOUISIANA AGRICULTURE FINANCE AUTHORITY
 RUN: Dec. 4, 11 - (D 2)

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
 Sealed bids will be opened and publicly read by the Purchasing Section of the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority (LAFA), 5825 Florida Blvd., Suite 1221, Baton Rouge, LA, Tuesday December 23, 2003 at 2:00 p.m. for the following:
LAF1165/0304 - LACASSINE SYRUP PLANT
 The Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority (LAFA) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to all qualified companies for a proposal for SECONDARY MIXED JUICE HEATER FOR THE LACASSINE SYRUP PLANT.
 The Request for Proposal provides a general description of the Project as well as instructions for submitting proposal.
 This announcement does not commit the Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority (LAFA) to award a contract or to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of proposals. LAFA reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, all proposals submitted and/or to cancel this announcement. Any contract awarded shall be based upon the proposal most advantageous to the state, cost and other factors considered. All contracts are subject to the availability of funds.
 No bids will be received after the date and hour specified. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities. Additional information can be seen on the internet at www.ladaf.state.la.us or specifications can be obtained from Hilary Stephenson, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. BIDS OPEN: Tuesday, DECEMBER 23, 2003 at 2:00 p.m.
 Hilary Stephenson
 Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority
 RUNS: DEC. 4, 11 - D 3

CAMERON PARISH WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 7
 Cameron Parish Waterworks District No. 7 met in regular session on September 16th, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. at the Waterworks District Office, in the Village of Creole, Louisiana. Members present: Wilson Conner, Guy Murphy, Sandra Ford, Jude Primeaux and Dale LeBoeuf. Guest: Scott Trahan and Lonnie Harper.
 Wilson Conner called the meeting to order, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, and called roll.
 Sandra Ford made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and the financial statement. It was seconded by Jude Primeaux and carried.
 A motion was made by Guy Murphy to pay the monthly bills, it was seconded by Sandra Ford and carried.
 The secretary was told to turn paperwork over to the District Attorney in reference to fire hydrant destruction.
 Sandra Ford discussed the importance of flushing the system.
 Guy Murphy made a motion to nominate Sandra Ford as President, it was seconded by Jude Primeaux and carried. Jude Primeaux made a motion to nominate Guy Murphy as Vice

President, it was seconded by Dale LeBoeuf and carried.
 The Board went into executive session. After going back into regular session the board told employees that next meeting they would be doing job evaluations.
 It was moved by Dale LeBoeuf, seconded by Sandra Ford, and carried that the meeting be adjourned.
 /s/Wilson Conner
 Approved
 Wilson Conner
 Vice-President
 RUNS: Dec. 4 - D 4

CAMERON PARISH WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 7
 Cameron Parish Waterworks District No. 7 met in regular session on October 21st, 2003 at 5:00 p.m. at the Waterworks District Office, in the Village of Creole, Louisiana. Members present: Wilson Conner, Sandra Ford, Dale LeBoeuf, Guy Murphy, and Jude Primeaux. Guest: Scott Trahan.
 Sandra Ford called the meeting to order, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance, and called roll.
 Wilson Conner made a motion to accept the minutes of the previous meeting and the financial statement. It was seconded by Jude Primeaux and carried.
 Wilson Conner made a motion to authorize Lonnie Harper to start advertising for bids on the LCDBG grant. It was seconded by Guy Murphy, and carried.
 Guy Murphy authorized the secretary to get in touch with Louisiana Rural Water and get an opinion on the flushing problems in the East Creole area.
 Dale LeBoeuf made a motion to pay the monthly bills, it was seconded by Wilson Conner and carried.
 It was moved by Guy Murphy, seconded by Jude Primeaux, and carried that Cameron Waterworks District 7 does hereby go into executive session to discuss employee evaluations.
 The President called the meeting back to order.
 It was moved by Jude Primeaux, seconded by Wilson Conner and carried that salary adjustments would be discussed at the next meeting.
 It was moved by Dale LeBoeuf, seconded by Guy Murphy, and carried that the meeting be adjourned.
 /s/Guy Murphy
 Approved
 Guy Murphy
 Vice-President
 RUNS: Dec. 54 - D 5

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
 Sealed bids will be opened and publicly read by the Purchasing Section of the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority (LAFA), 5825 Florida Blvd., Suite 1221, Baton Rouge, LA, Tuesday December 29, 2003 at 11:00 a.m. for the following:
LAF1165/0311 - LACASSINE SYRUP PLANT
 The Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority (LAFA) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to all qualified companies for a proposal for CLARIFIED JUICE HEATER FOR THE LACASSINE SYRUP PLANT.
 The Request for Proposal provides a general description of the Project as well as instructions for submitting proposal.
 This announcement does not commit the Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority (LAFA) to award a contract or to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of proposals. LAFA reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, all proposals submitted and/or to cancel this announcement. Any contract awarded shall be based upon the proposal most advantageous to the state, cost and other factors considered. All contracts are subject to the availability of funds.
No bids will be received after the date and hour specified. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities. Additional information can be seen on the internet at www.ladaf.state.la.us or specifications can be obtained from Hilary Stephenson, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. BIDS OPEN: Tuesday, DECEMBER 29, 2003 at 11:00 a.m.
 Hilary Stephenson
 Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority
 RUNS: DEC. 4, 11 - D 6

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
 Sealed bids will be opened and publicly read by the Purchasing Section of the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority (LAFA), 5825 Florida Blvd., Suite 1221, Baton Rouge, LA, Tuesday December 29, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. for the following:
LAF1165/0311 - LACASSINE SYRUP PLANT
 The Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority (LAFA) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to all qualified companies for a proposal for TERTIARY MIXED JUICE HEATER FOR THE LACASSINE SYRUP PLANT.
 The Request for Proposal provides a general description of the Project as well as instructions for submitting proposal.
 This announcement does not commit the Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority (LAFA) to award a contract or to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of proposals. LAFA reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, all proposals submitted and/or to cancel this announcement. Any contract awarded shall be based upon the proposal most advantageous to the state, cost and other factors considered. All contracts are subject to the availability of funds.
No bids will be received after the date and hour specified. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities. Additional information can be seen on the internet at www.ladaf.state.la.us or specifications can be obtained from Hilary Stephenson, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. BIDS OPEN: Tuesday, DECEMBER 29, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.
 Hilary Stephenson
 Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority
 RUNS: DEC. 4, 11 - D 6

NOTICE TO BIDDERS
 Sealed bids will be opened and publicly read by the Purchasing Section of the Louisiana Agricultural Finance Authority (LAFA), 5825 Florida Blvd., Suite 1221, Baton Rouge, LA, Tuesday December 29, 2003 at 9:00 a.m. for the following:
LAF1165/0311 - LACASSINE SYRUP PLANT
 The Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority (LAFA) is issuing a Request for Proposal (RFP) to all qualified companies for a proposal for TERTIARY MIXED JUICE HEATER FOR THE LACASSINE SYRUP PLANT.
 The Request for Proposal provides a general description of the Project as well as instructions for submitting proposal.
 This announcement does not commit the Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority (LAFA) to award a contract or to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of proposals. LAFA reserves the right to accept or reject, in whole or in part, all proposals submitted and/or to cancel this announcement. Any contract awarded shall be based upon the proposal most advantageous to the state, cost and other factors considered. All contracts are subject to the availability of funds.
No bids will be received after the date and hour specified. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids and to waive any informalities. Additional information can be seen on the internet at www.ladaf.state.la.us or specifications can be obtained from Hilary Stephenson, 5825 Florida Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. BIDS OPEN: Tuesday, DECEMBER 29, 2003 at 9:00 a.m.
 Hilary Stephenson
 Louisiana Agriculture Finance Authority
 RUNS: DEC. 4, 11 - D 6

Permits: LCUP #030910-Jerald Helms, sec. 33, 34, T15S, R13W-proposed clearing & grading (after the fact permit application) S of Parish road 528-Gulfview Avenue-Ocean View Beach. (Cease & Desist order from DNR (Jack Caldwell) attached
NOTE: This permit was not approved still being reviewed.
 LCUP #031009-Duncan Oil, Inc-Sec 8, T15S, R14W-proposed Access route, Drill Site & (2) 3: Pipelines.
 LCUP #031008-Ballard Exploration Co, Inc.-Latitude 29 deg. 52'07" Longitude 93 deg., 49'24"-Ballard Exploration Co, Inc.s Proposed well location; SL17131 well no. 001 Sabine Lake.
 LCUP #031010-Sam Gary, Jr. & Assoc, Inc.-Secs 7, 8, 17 & 18, T12S, R12W-Secs. 11 & 12, T12S, R13W-proposed 6" pipeline to serve Bonne Terre Explor. Co.LLC 8 No. 1 in Black Bayou and unnamed Open Water Area.
 LCUP #031020-Ballard Explor. Co. Inc.-Sabine Lake-proposed flowline to serve SL 17131 WELL NO. 001.
 Salinity reports SWLFF-Roy Walter and G.D.D. #7 Lloyd Badon.
 Letters and correspondence (letter from CPPJ Re: GASB 34)-(Request for 2002 Census Of Governments & Survey of Govt Finances).
 Update Permit #23022 received from USCOE-Galveston approved & signed.
 Update Holly Beach Sand Management Project.
 Update leasing east side Sabine River & Sabine Lighthouse Access Road.
 Update La DOTD Re: cleaning culverts under La. State Hwys 27 & 82.
 Update Oyster Bayou, 1st & 2nd Bayou, Hwy 82 north ditch cleanup & Ducks Unlimited partnership with landowners, companies, agencies, etc. NOTE: Special meeting Monday, Oct. 27th at 6:30 p.m. at GDD7 office.
 Update on Edward Jones (Jessie Verrette) & Travis Sanders Lake Charles (letter) NOTE:New agent Steve Janca in Lake Charles office.
 Update on Drainage request of Robert Broussard in east Holly Beach.
 Update Bob Dill request at Trahan Bayou on Long Beach.
 Update on Request of Elrick Taylor for assistance in drainage at Holly Beach.
 Discussion on digital camera and computer upgrade.
 CWPRA Meeting Notice-Task Force Committee Nov 12th-La Dept of Wildlife & Fisheries in Baton Rouge 9:30 a.m.
 Discussion on new Cameron Teledigital high speed inter-net, digital telephone, etc.
 Update Sonny Boy Trahan Request & Langford Peavy Request.
 Accept resignation Rodney Guilbeaux, Office Administrator/Executive Secretary. Motion by: Rogerest Romero 2nd by: Curtis Trahan Motion passed.
 Motion to advertise in Cameron Parish Pilot three consecutive weeks for position of Office Administrator/Executive Secretary. Motion by: Rogerest Romero 2nd by: Curtis Trahan Motion passed.
 Motion to rejoin Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana. Motion by: Curtis Trahan 2nd by: Rogerest Romero Motion passed.
 Motion to Adjourn by: Rogerest Romero 2nd by: Curtis Trahan.
 Next meeting to be: Thursday Nov 20th, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. at Middle Ridge Road.
 ATTEST:
 Rodney J. Guilbeaux
 Executive Secretary
 /s/Magnus W. McGee
 Magnus W. McGee, President
 RUNS: Dec. 4 - D 13

SHERIFF'S SALE
THIRTY-EIGHT JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF CAMERON STATE OF LOUISIANA
CAMERON STATE BANK
VS. NO. 10-16601
DARLA K. ALI
 By virtue of a writ of EXECUTORY PROCESS issued to me directed by the Honorable Court aforesaid, I have seized and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder WITH the benefit of appraisal, at the Court House door of this Parish of Cameron, on Wednesday, DECEMBER 17, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. the following described property to-wit:
 1999 TOYOTA 6000 LL BEARING SERIAL NUMBER JT3GN8TR4X0111393.
 seized under said writ.
 Terms: CASH DAY OF SALE.
 /s/James R. Savoie
JAMES R. SAVOIE, Sheriff
CAMERON PARISH, LA.
 Sheriff's Office, Cameron, La.
 NOVEMBER 26, 2003.
RONALD J. BERTRAND
 Attorneys for PLAINTIFF
 RUNS: Dec. 4 - D 8

SHERIFF'S SALE
THIRTY-EIGHT JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF CAMERON STATE OF LOUISIANA
GREEN TREE FINANCIAL SERVICES CORPORATION
VS. NO. 10-16594
MARLA K. LANDRY
 By virtue of a writ of EXECUTORY PROCESS issued to me directed by the Honorable Court aforesaid, I have seized and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder WITHOUT the benefit of appraisal, at the Court House door of this Parish of Cameron, on Wednesday, DECEMBER 17, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. The following described property to-wit:
 1990 REDMAN HOMES BRIGHTON 14 X 66 MOBILE HOME, BEARING MANUFACTURER'S SERIAL NUMBER 14709860.
 seized under said writ.
 Terms: CASH DAY OF SALE.
 /s/James R. Savoie
JAMES R. SAVOIE, Sheriff
CAMERON PARISH, LA.
 Sheriff's Office, Cameron, La.
 NOVEMBER 26, 2003.
STEPHEN D. WHEELIS
 Attorneys for PLAINTIFF
 RUNS: Dec. 4 - D 9

PUBLIC NOTICE
 In compliance with Act #467 of the 1995 Legislature regarding open public meeting laws, regular meetings of Cameron Parish Waterworks District No. 9, for the year 2004, are to be held as follows:
 A. Meetings will be held last Thursday of each month.
 B. Even months - meeting will be held at office of the District, Grand Chenier, La.
 C. Odd months - meeting will be held at office of the District, Muria, Creole, Louisiana.
 D. Time of meeting set at 5:30 p.m.
 E. Change of meeting or call for special meeting will be published in offices of the District, at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to such meeting.
 F. In case of extraordinary emergency, such notice shall not be required, however, the public body shall give such notice of the meeting as it deems appropriate and circumstances permit.
 Board of Commissioners
 Cameron Parish Waterworks District No. 9
 RUNS: Dec. 4, 11, 18 - D 10

LEGAL NOTICE
 The Cameron Parish Assessor will hold a public hearing on the proposed budget for fiscal year 2004. Said hearing shall be held at the Office of the Assessor, Parish Courthouse, Cameron, Louisiana, at 10:00 a.m., December 15, 2003. The Cameron Parish Assessor's office budget is always available for public inspection during normal business hours at the Office of the Assessor.
 2003 2004
 Amended Proposed
 Revenue:
 Ad valorem taxes 383766 390000
 State revenue sharing 6873 6900
 Informational services 4000 4000
 Interest earnings 4250 4500
 Total revenue 398889 405400
 Expenditures:
 Personal services 340940 353140
 Supplies 9350 9600
 Other operating expenses 71689 71189
 Capital outlay 3000 2500
 Total expenditures 424979 436429
 Excess -26090 -31029
 RUNS: Dec. 4 - D 12

CAMERON PARISH GRAVITY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 7
MINUTES
 Oct. 16th., 2003
 Meeting called to order by President Magnus McGee.
 Present are: Magnus McGee, Rogerest Romero, Curtis Trahan.
 Absent: Ivan Barentine and Carroll Trahan.
 Guest Are: Robert Dill, W. L. Badon, R. John Guilbeaux III, Rodney Guilbeaux, Jr.
 Motion to accept minutes of meeting Sept. 18th., 2003 made by: Curtis Trahan, 2nd. by: Rogerest Romero, Motion passed.
 Motion to review and pay bills by: Rogerest Romero, 2nd. by: Curtis Trahan, Motion passed.
 Permits approved: Motion by: Rogerest Romero 2nd. by: Curtis Trahan, Motion passed.

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING
 OCT. 29th, 2003
 Meeting called to order by President Magnus McGee at 6:30 p.m.
 Present are: Magnus McGee, Ivan Barentine, Curtis Trahan.
 Absent: Rogerest Romero and Carroll Trahan.
 Guests are: Kurt Stansel, Alan Lacoste, Scott Rosteet, Kelly Durkey, Chad Courville, David Richard, Lonnie Harper, Will Drost, W. L. Badon.
 The purpose of the special meeting was to discuss Oyster Bayou project.
 Lonnie Harper gave an update to everyone present on the project. He then presented a slide show to further explain the options within the project.
 Motion to adjourn at 9:00-p.m. by: Ivan Barentine, 2nd by: Curtis Trahan.
 Next meeting to be: Thursday, Nov. 20th, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. at Middle Ridge Road.
 ATTEST:
 Rodney J. Guilbeaux
 Executive Secretary
 Signed /s/Magnus W. McGee
 Magnus W. McGee, President
 RUNS: Dec. 4 - D 14

BUDGET HEARING ON FUNDS OF THE CAMERON RECREATION DISTRICT NO. 6
 The Cameron Recreation District No. 6 will hold a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 17, 2003 in the Cameron Recreation Building on 300 LeBleu Camp Road in Creole, Louisiana for the purpose of hearing written and oral comment from the public concerning the proposed annual budget for the fiscal year 2004 and the use of funds as contained in that proposed budget.
 Regulations require a hearing on the proposed use of these funds before the budget is adopted each year.
 All interested citizens, groups, senior citizens and organizations representing the interest of senior citizens are encouraged to attend and to submit comments.
 A summary of the proposed budget is as follows:
 Ad-valorem \$267,977.

Miss Cameron Pageant set January 9
 The Miss Cameron Parish pageant will be held on Friday, Jan. 9. A contestant must be 17 years of age and not older than 22 by Jan. 1, 2004. She must have resided in her local community for one year.
 In addition to receiving a fur coat and an all expense paid trip to Maryland, the Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival will also give a \$1,000 scholarship to the 2004 Miss Cameron Parish.
 The deadline for applications is Dec. 19, 2003. If anyone would like an application for the pageant, please contact Debra Duhon, Pageant Director at 542-4619.

Cam. Parish Sheriff Report
 From Nov. 19-30, five people were charged with various degrees of battery by the Cameron Parish Sheriff's Office.
 A Cameron man was arrested Nov. 24 for aggravated battery following a fight in a Creole bar. Robert A. Watson II, 24, of 159 John St. allegedly pulled a knife during an altercation at a Creole bar. He was released on \$2000 recognizance bond.
 On Nov. 20, Jimmy L. Constance II, 43, of 325 Old Towne Rd., Hackberry, was arrested for second degree battery.
 On Nov. 26, Amanda Kay DeBarge, 17, of 120 Iris St., Cameron and Craig Green 23, of 1593 Marshall St., Apt. 22, Cameron, were arrested for simple battery. Green was also charged with simple assault.
 Joe R. Wilson, 39, of 125 D St., Cameron, was arrested Nov. 30 for domestic violence, simple battery and simple assault.
 Kenneth Roy Smith, 64, of 172 N. Main St., Hackberry, was arrested Nov. 24 on warrants for simple assault, telephone harassment, violation of protective order, violation of court order, and remaining after forbidden. He was released on \$500 recognizance bond.
 Randy Dale Peshoff, 39, of 173 Rogers Ln., Cameron was arrested Nov. 28 on a charge of being a peeping tom.
 Christopher Cormie, 26, of 125 Beau Clos Rd., Grand Lake, was arrested Nov. 19 on warrants for eight counts of possession of a firearm by a convicted felon. He was released on a surety bond.

DWI AND DRUG ARRESTS
 11/22 James O. McKeehan, Jr., 38, Lake Charles - DWI, possession of marijuana. Russell Robertson, 31, Westlake - DWI.
 11/26 Gerard C. Conner, 19, Jennings - possession of schedule II CDS. Mitchel A. Abadie, 38, Houston, Tex. - DWI.
 11/28 Damien Chad Badon, 17, 159 Middle Ridge Rd., Johnson Bayou - DWI.

GOD BLESS THE U.S.A.

Interest	7,000.
Items for resale	20,000.
Swimming pool receipts	2,500.
Rental Fee	6,000.
Other receipts	2,500.
Capital Improvements	\$300,000.
Pool	10,000.
Vehicle Repairs	500.
Vehicle Fuel	1,000.
Office Expense	3,000.
Equip/Repairs	15,000.
Other Expense	10,000.
Items for resale	15,000.
Tractor Repairs	1,000.
Tractor Fuel	1,000.
Salaries	75,000.
Per-Diem	840.
Medicare	1,000.
Group Insurance	15,000.
FICA	2,000.
Retirement	4,000.
Utilities	25,000.
Maint Bldg & Ground	10,000.
Insurance	20,000.
Audit Fees	4,400.
RUNS: Dec. 4 - D 15	
NOTICE	
WE ARE APPLYING to the Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control of the State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of "High and low alcoholic content" at retail in the Parish of Cameron at the following address: 4439 West Creole Hwy. Cameron, LA 70631 Douglas M. Haynie & Sue C. Haynie /s/Douglas M. Haynie /s/Sue C. Haynie	
Petition of Opposition should be made in writing in accordance with L.R.S. Title 26, Section 85 and 283. RUN: Dec. 4, 11 - D 16	



CHARLOTTE TROSCLAIR, Cameron Library Director, and Rhonda Rich, Author of "What Southern Women Know" and "My Life in the Pits" at the recent Libraries Southwest author's dinner held in Lake Charles.

It Seems Just Like Yesterday

By Keith Hambrick



Lake Charles American Press, Dec. 4, 1940.

POLLING PLACES ANNOUNCED

Plans to notify all cotton growers in Cameron Parish of the polling places where they may vote Saturday on cotton quotas for 1941 were announced today by L. B. Welch, parish administrative assistant.

"As you know," said Mr. Welch in his notice to the farmers, "marketing quotas are designed to assure all farmers, big or small, a fair share of the market. Thus, when quotas apply, every farmer is able to sell all the cotton he grows on his allotted acreage plus any cotton he could have sold without penalty the year before."

Voting polls for cotton farmers living east of E. O. Stewart to North Island will be at Grand Chenier school.

All farmers living on the front ridge road west of E. O. Stewart to Williams Andrews, and those on the back road to George Nunez, as well as those east from Stewart's, including Little Chenier and Chenier Perdue, are to vote at the Creole Dance Hall.

Polls at the Cameron courthouse are for those farmers living west of William Andrews on the beach road to Cameron, and from George Nunez to Cameron.

Cotton growers from Johnson's Bayou and Hackberry will hold their election at the Johnson's Bayou school.

From Narcisse Duhon eastward the polls are at Louis Dupuy's. Westward from Narcisse Duhon the polls are at the Big Lake school.

Lowery and Klondike cotton planters will vote at the Klondike school.

Cameron Pilot, Dec. 4, 1970.

SHELL BANK COMMUNITY

Mrs. Coral Lee Perry, Cameron Parish Librarian, received an answer this week to her inquiry about a community called Shell Bank in Cameron Parish. A request had come to her from California on a Mary Louise Moore living at Shell Bank at the turn of the century.

Mrs. Patti Pavell Comatti wrote from Port Arthur, Tex., that there was indeed a Shell Bank, La. in 1892. Her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ferdinand Pavell lived there for over forty years. It was located on the Louisiana side of Sabine River about 10 miles south of Orange, Tex.

Mrs. Comatti stated that her grandfather had a trading post there with a general merchandise store, warehouse and wharves for boats and a cypress shingle mill, in addition to his home up on a hill of shell which could be seen up and down the river for quite a distance. Because of the high mound of shell, the place was called "Shell Bank."

Her grandfather was the

postmaster and had the post office in his store for a number of years. People up and down the Sabine River on both the Texas and Louisiana side traded with him and got their mail at Shell Bank, La.

Mr. Pavell died in 1910. Later the place was sold and all of the shell was dredged out, leaving nothing.

Mrs. Comatti doesn't ever remember hearing the family speak of a Mary Louise Moore. She could have possibly lived some distance from Shell Bank and only got her mail there, Mrs. Comatti said.

She said when her grandparents lived at Shell Beach, it was one of the few trading posts along the river. Boats from Galveston and Orange always stopped there for supplies.

Information on Shell Bank has been furnished to the Pilot by Mrs. Bernice Stewart of Lake Arthur, who writes:

Although I cannot assist Mrs. Carol Perry in obtaining information about the book written by Mary Louise Moore in 1892, I can verify the fact that there was at the time a Shell Bank, Cameron Parish, La. post office.

I quote from LOUISIANA by Alcee Fortier, vol. 2, chapter 3, copyright, 1914: "Shellbank, a post office village near the western boundary of Cameron Parish, is located on the east shore of Sabine Lake, 5 miles east of Port Arthur, the nearest railroad station."

CAMERON PARISH 1971 BUDGET

The 1971 budget for the Cameron Parish Police Jury was adopted Tuesday with \$415,000 budgeted for the new year--an increase of \$35,000 over the present budget.

Police Jury President Frankie Henry praised the jury for staying within the 1970 budget which had been reduced.

ROMERO CROWNED

Brenda Romero, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Romero, was crowned queen of the 1970 Harvest Festival at the Johnson Bayou school recently. Miss Romero was escorted by Glenn Trahan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Trahan.

The new queen was crowned by Miss Connie Vincent, the last Festival Queen. First runner-up was Jo Mae Badon, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Badon. She was escorted by Rodney Donahue. Second runner-up was Elaine Burnett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Myrtle Barnett. She was escorted by Mark Young, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Young.

Third runner-up was Connie Vincent, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Griffith. Her escort was Robert Trahan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Trahan.

Other girls entered in the competition were: Yvette Crader, Lucinda Jinks, Lana Fancher, Theresa Berwick,

THE GUMBO POT

Creamed Crabmeat Casserole (Lagniappe - Sea Grant La.)

If a recipe has crabmeat and cream in it, it has to be good. And this one is no exception. I have presented it here as a casserole, but you can delete the breadcrumbs and serve it on toast points or with crackers as an appetizer too. It's good either way.

- 3/4 stick butter
- 1/2 medium onion, chopped
- 1 lb. crabmeat
- 3 tbsp. flour
- 1 1/2 cups half & half cream
- 1/2 tsp. dry mustard
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. red pepper
- 1 tbsp. green onion, minced
- 2 egg yolks, beaten
- Creole seasoning
- 1/2 cup breadcrumbs

Melt butter in saucepan. Add onion and saute' for about ten minutes over medium heat. Add crabmeat, mix, and cook for 5 minutes. Add half & half, constantly stirring until the mixture boils. Mix mustard, salt, pepper and green onions with beaten egg yolks. Add some of the crabmeat mixture, then mix the egg yolk mixture into the crabmeat. Season to taste with Creole seasoning and place in a casserole dish. Sprinkle bread crumbs on surface and heat in 350° oven until bread crumbs are lightly browned, about 20 minutes. Serves 3-4.

Booth benefit successful

On November 23, 2003 a benefit was held at the Sturlese American Legion Post in Grand Chenier, for Elouise Booth. She and her family "Thank" everyone who attended and/or helped to make the event such a success. There are too many people to list individually that aided in the preparations, but thank you for the help and support you have provided without you we would not have been as successful. The live and silent auction items, the food, drinks, and live music as well as wonderful friends and neighbors helped make the event a success.

The proceeds from the benefit will go to help pay bills that have incurred since her last hospitalization in August of 2003. Elouise has been such a courageous person in her battle against cancer and truly appreciates all that has been done for her by her friends and relatives.

Joni Sandifer, Juanita Jinks, Linda Creel and Margaret Merritt.

FIRST VOTE UNDER NEW RULING

The first property tax election to be held in Cameron Parish since that court ruling that non-property owners may vote in such an election will be held in the Hackberry Recreation District.

The district has called an election for Tuesday, Jan. 12, on the renewal of a 5-mill tax for 10 years for the operation of the Hackberry recreation center.

Until the recent court ruling, only resident property owners who were qualified voters could vote in such property tax elections.

In the upcoming Hackberry election all qualified electors, regardless of whether they are property owners or not, will be eligible to vote.

Donald Broussard is president of the recreation board and Benny L. Sanders is secretary.

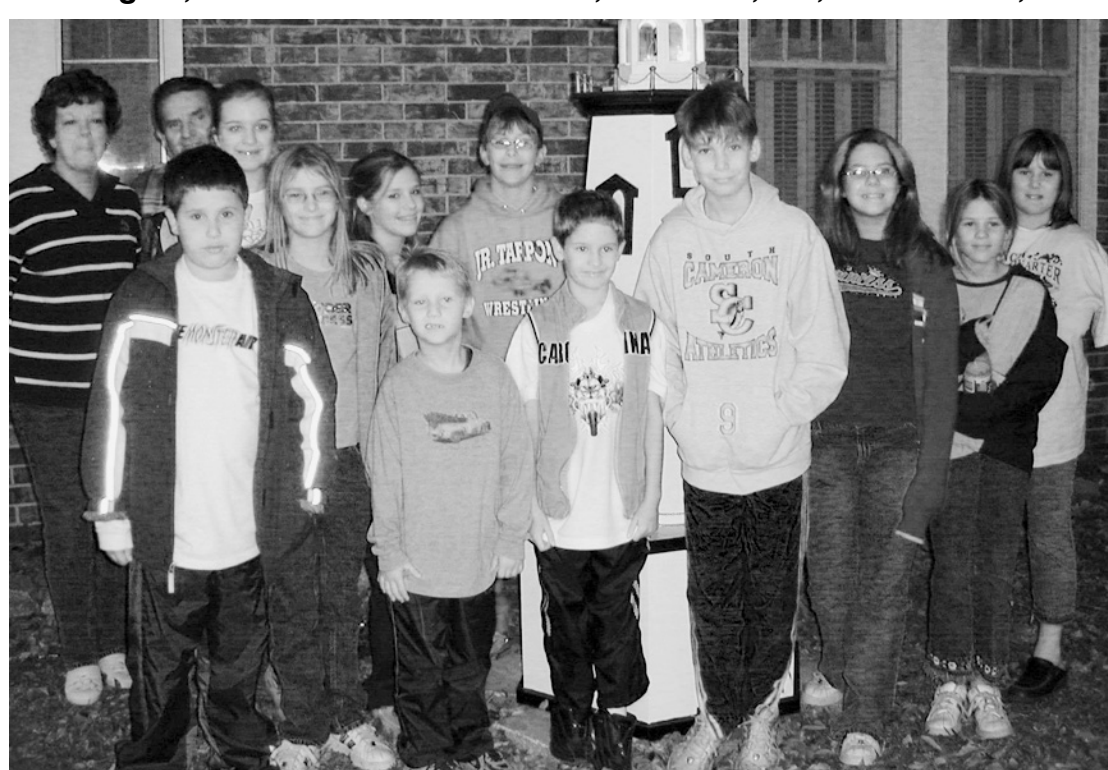


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PICTURED ABOVE are members of the Cameron Elementary 4-H who delivered food to the Lighthouse Mission located in Cameron on Monday just in time for Thanksgiving. The mission is open 24 hours per day for people in need. The canned goods and non perishable items were donated by the students and 4Hers of Cameron Elementary.

Recipes to share Office of Conservation to manage water wells

APPLE DUMPLINS'

- 2 Granny Smith apples
- 1 roll of crescent rolls
- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 stick butter

Peel, core & quarter apples. Wrap each quarter apple in a crescent roll, starting with little end first. Place dumplings in 9 x 13 pan. Bring orange juice, sugar and butter to a boil. Pour over dumplings and bake for 30 minutes in 350 degree oven.

PUMPKIN CRUNCH CAKE

- 1 can pumpkin
- 1 large can evaporated milk
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 2 tsp. pumpkin pie spice
- 1 tsp. salt
- 4 eggs
- 1 box yellow cake mix
- 1 c. chopped pecans
- 2 sticks butter or margarine

Beat first six ingredients together until well mixed and pour into 13 X 9 greased pan. Sprinkle yellow cake mix over pumpkin mixture. Sprinkle chopped pecans over cake mix. Thinly slice 2 sticks of butter over pecans. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes.

Tangy Chicken Chili

- 3 skinless, boneless chicken breasts, cut into one-inch pieces
- 1/3 cup white wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 bay leaves
- 1/2 teaspoon ground red pepper
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 (15-ounce) can chili with beans
- 1/4 cup shredded cheddar cheese

To begin, place chicken in a large, shallow dish. Combine vinegar, soy sauce, garlic, bay leaves and ground red pepper. Pour mixture over chicken, tossing to coat. Cover and refrigerate four hours, stirring occasionally. Transfer chicken and marinade to heavy skillet, add water and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered for 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Remove chicken and set aside. Bring liquid to a boil, uncovered, until reduced to 1/2 cup. Stir in chili and chicken. Simmer until thoroughly heated. Serve in bowls with shredded cheese. Serves four.

For a variety of easy-to-make and sure-to-please chili recipes, visit www.hormel.com.



Act 49 of the 2003 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature made the Office of Conservation responsible for the administration of all matters related to the management of Louisiana's ground water resources to ensure sustainability of those resources. In order to do this, it is necessary to monitor the ongoing use of aquifers in the state.

Beginning July 1, 2003, owners of all new water wells drilled in Louisiana must submit notification of intent to drill to the Office at least 60 days prior to drilling the well. This notification shall, require:

- *date drilled or date to be drilled,
- *name of the driller,
- *current well ownership,
- *projected location of the well,
- *casing size.

New novels at Library

New novels at the Cameron Parish Library include:

- The Boat Of Dreams - Richard Preston;
- The Babes In The Wood - Ruth Rendell;
- Blood Canticle - Anne Rice;
- The Lone Drow - R. A. Salvatore;
- The Hanged Man's Song - John Sandford;
- Safe Harbour - Danielle Steel;
- Lost Boy - Peter Straub;
- The Early Stories, 1953-1975 - John Updike;
- O'Hara's Choice - Leon Uris;
- Capital Crimes - Stuart Woods.

The Office shall review the submitted information within thirty days of receipt. The Office may either:

- *place restrictions on the well,
- *request further information,
- *take no action.

The owner of the affected well, or proposed well, or any owner of a well in the same aquifer which may be adversely impacted by the well in question, may send a petition to review the order placing restrictions on the well addressed to:

LA Ground Water Resources Commission, C/O Office of Conservation, P. O. Box 94275, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275.

For further information, please contact the:

Louisiana Office of Conservation, Ground Water Resources Division, P. O. Box 94275, Baton Rouge, LA 70804-9275. (225)342-8244, www.dnr.state.la.us/cons/gwa ter.

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CLOSED JAN. 1 -- Re-open Jan. 2

Some thoughts on priorities when you've turned 83

(EDITOR'S NOTE--The following is a reprint of an e-mail received from Ivory Dorsey of Atlanta (formerly of DeQuincy). She says it was written by an 83-year-old, but does not identify the author. We thought our readers would be interested.)

Dear Bertha,

I'm reading more and dusting less. I'm sitting in the yard and admiring the view without fussing about the weeds in the garden. I'm spending more time with my family and friends and less time working. Whenever possible, life should be a pattern of experiences to savor, not to endure. I'm trying to recognize these moments now and cherish them.

I'm not "saving" anything; we use our good china and crystal for every special event such as losing a pound, getting the sink unstopped, or the first Amaryllis blossom.

I wear my good blazer to the market. My theory is if I look prosperous, I can shell out \$28.49 for one small bag of groceries.

I'm not saving my good perfume for special parties, but wearing it for clerks in the hardware store and tellers at the bank.

"Someday" and "one of these days" are losing their grip on my vocabulary; if it's worth seeing or hearing or doing, I want to see and hear and do it now.

I'm not sure what others would've done had they known they wouldn't be here for the tomorrow that we all take for granted.

I think they would have called family members and a few close friends. They might

have called a few former friends to apologize and mend fences for past squabbles.

I like to think they would have gone out for a Chinese dinner or for whatever their favorite food was.

I'm guessing; I'll never know.

It's those little things left undone that would make me angry if I knew my hours were limited. Angry because I hadn't written certain letters that I intended to write one of these days. Angry and sorry that I didn't tell my husband and parents often enough how much I truly love them. I'm trying very hard not to put off, hold back, or save anything that would add laughter and luster to our lives.

And every morning when I open my eyes, I tell myself that it is special. Every day, every minute, every breath truly is a gift from God.

If you received this, it is because someone cares for you.

If you're too busy to take the few minutes that it takes right now to forward this, would it be the first time you didn't do the little thing that would make a difference in your relationships? I can tell you it certainly won't be the last.

Take a few minutes to send this to a few people you care about, just to let them know that you're thinking of them.

"People say true friends must always hold hands, but true friends don't need to hold hands because they know the other hand will always be there."

I don't believe in miracles. I rely on them.

Life may not be the party we hoped for, but while we are here we might as well dance.

Holiday Hints

Don't forget the batteries!

(NAPSA)-Portable music players and electronic games are predicted to be hot items again this holiday season. While these gadget gifts vary in function, there is one characteristic they have in common... they all need batteries. A recent Duracell survey shows that more than half of all Americans were disappointed when they received battery-powered gifts for the holidays and didn't have the batteries on hand to use them. To help avoid disappointment this year, make sure to purchase batteries every time you purchase an electronic gift.

If you are stuffing any stockings this holiday season, giving batteries is another great idea, since more than 70 percent of gift-givers surveyed plan to purchase between one and five battery-powered gifts for their loved ones and friends. Even if you're not giving a battery-operated device, chances are high that someone you know will need batteries for another present they receive. Be sure to choose a brand of battery that you trust to provide long-lasting and reliable power.

With so many battery-powered gadgets on hand this holiday season, Duracell offers the following reminders to help keep your batteries and devices in top operating condition:

- Don't store batteries in the refrigerator or freezer. Batteries are best kept in a dry place at normal room temperature. Extreme heat or cold reduces battery life and performance.
- Be sure to align your batteries positive (+) and negative (-) terminals correctly when inserting them into a device. Some devices may appear to work properly if one battery is inserted incorrectly,



but this can lead to battery leakage, rupture and possible device damage and or personal injury.

- Never attempt to recharge a battery unless the battery specifically is marked "rechargeable." Recharging a non-rechargeable battery may cause rupture or leakage and personal injury.

- Replace all your device's batteries at the same time. Mixing old and new batteries in a device can lead to battery leakage and device damage.

- Remove batteries from a device when it is not expected to be in use for several months. Batteries should also be removed from equipment while it is being powered by household (AC) current.

- Always replace the battery or batteries in your equipment with the size and type of battery specified by the equipment manufacturer. Using the wrong type or size could cause malfunction or equipment damage.

- Do not store batteries loosely or carry them loose in your pocket or purse. They can be shorted by contact with metal objects and leak or rupture and may cause personal injury.

- Primary batteries should be discarded with your regular household trash. Never dispose of batteries in fire because they could explode.

- Keep battery contact surfaces and battery compartment contacts clean by rubbing them with a clean pencil eraser or a clean cloth each time you replace batteries.

Don't fall victim to identity theft

(NAPSA)-Identity theft is on the rise in the United States-but there are ways you can reduce your risk.

According to a recent Federal Trade Commission report, nearly 10 million people in the last year alone have been victims of identity theft, costing them \$5 billion in out-of-pocket expenses and costing businesses a total of nearly \$50 billion.

Identity theft occurs when someone fraudulently uses another individual's personal information to apply for a loan, credit card, driver's license or even a job. Identity theft can lead to a ruined credit rating, a tarnished reputation and even wrongful imprisonment. The average victim can spend more than 175 hours of personal time and more than \$800 to clear their names and restore their good credit ratings.

In an effort to help reduce identity theft, the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC) and Fellowes, Inc., a leading manufacturer of paper shredders, offer tips on the proper disposal of personal documents.

"A document shredder can be an invaluable tool in ensuring personal records don't end up in the wrong hands," said George Rice, director of public affairs for the NCPC. "We also recommend additional protective actions such as storing personal records in a safe place or using a password protected electronic storage medium," Rice said.

Fellowes has seen a more than 25 percent increase in shredder sales in the past year as more consumers are

becoming aware of the growing threat of identity theft.

Tips on Selecting a Shredder

- Think about how much you'll shred in a day, then double it.

- Consider the varying levels of motor efficiency, duty cycle and speed.

- Some shredders offer a "strip cut," which provides cost-effective security by shredding paper into unreadable strips. Going one step further for added security is the confetti (or cross-cut) shredder, which produces smaller, confetti like pieces.

- Today's shredders do more than just shred documents. For example, Fellowes' newest model, the Powershred PS70-2CD Strip Cut Shredder, is designed to safely shred credit cards, staples, paperclips and even compact discs.

Free Security Kit

Visit www.fellowes.com for more information and to sign up to receive a free "Information Security Kit" filled with more valuable tips to help prevent identity theft.



Shred personal documents before you throw them out.

Shopping for a preschooler

The holidays are a time for families to celebrate together, share traditions and make lasting memories. Finding the perfect gift that will elicit squeals of delight upon opening and remain at the top of the "everyday play" list for the rest of the year to come can be a challenge. This is especially true when the recipient is a discriminating preschooler!

To anyone who has ever purchased a toy for a child, the fact that kids are among the hardest people to shop for comes as no surprise. Sure, they've got long lists of "wants," but a gift-giver's biggest challenge is distinguishing between those toys that are destined to be short-lived fads and those that will become daily favorites and provide hours of play, year after year.

This year as you traverse the toy aisles, pay attention to your own instincts. For while technology has taken toys to new dimensions, there is no substitute for classic, timeless toys that unleash the imagination and inspire creative, open-ended play.

Wooden Train Play: On the Fast Track for Fun for Over a Century

Stop by any local specialty toy store and watch the kids gathered around the Thomas & Friends Wooden Railway playtable. They are mesmerized. Lost in the world they are creating in their minds and in the treasured Thomas the Tank Engine stories they are re-creating using the wooden track and vehicles with familiar faces. They will play for hours.

The sheer fact that a toddler can and will play with a single toy for hours on end is reason enough for Mom to get on board with a toy. However, wooden train play appeals to parents and kids from so many other perspectives that it's no wonder it's been a part of our American heritage for more than a century.

Child development experts recognize that wooden train play helps children develop physical, social and cognitive skills, as well as a sense of pride and accomplishment. These developmental benefits are not lost on parents today who are seeking toys that not only provide great play value, but also offer developmental

value as well. In addition, wooden trains have an heirloom look and feel and they tap into a young boy's fascination with motion, power, control, action, movement and how things work.

Always on the go, wooden trains reflect the lives of busy boys.

Research shows that while girls do play with wooden trains, young boys are the most avid wooden train play enthusiasts. It will come as no surprise to parents or grandparents of young boys that they crave action and motion. Train play is one of the only miniature worlds that enables these little engineers to experience and control the motion and action they crave in a wholesome, non-violent way.

The non-violent nature of wooden train play is critical when you consider that even kids as young as 2 years of age can and do play with wooden trains. Train play is open-ended. Yet unlike other open-ended toys such as blocks or modeling clay, train play has a variety of stimulating, challenging potential activities for kids to discover within a structured world.

Open-ended means more than one way to play.

Wooden train play also offers an unending number of levels upon which children can enjoy the play patterns. When they're young they can find great pleasure in moving a single engine or two around a track. As kids age they can discover more and more complex ways to interact with the train and track world. It's a building toy then it's a thinking toy. It grows and changes with kids.

Train play is also so very engaging because it is not just one activity. It is a multitude of activities. Unlike most toys, train play feeds an almost unending circle of curiosity to confidence, no matter what the child's age.

Captivating for kids . . . and parents, too!



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10 simple Christmas decoration ideas

The holiday season is a time to step back from daily routines, reflect and spend time with loved ones. This year, take time to truly feel the holiday spirit by gathering family and friends together to decorate the home for holiday festivities.

Try these 10 special yet simple activities to be enjoyed with loved ones:

- * Fill your home with the warm, beautiful light of candles. During the holidays, candles are available in all shapes, sizes and styles -- often decorated with glitter and sequins for an even more shimmering effect. Cluster them together in a fireplace as an alternative to a crackling fire.

- * Create festive table decorations -- a fun and easy project to do with the kids! Grab some plain salt and pepper shakers, slather on some glue, then add glitter, sequins, silver stars and puffy paint . . . voila, these shining shakers are sure to add decoration -- with function -- to the table.

- * Top the tree with something extraordinary. Have an older guest and a younger one create the focal point of the room by topping the tree together with an eye-catching decoration.

- * Wrap silver or gold garland around lampposts, pillars and staircase banisters and drape tinsel on mirror frames and mantles. Add bows for some additional color and sparkle.

- * Bake cookies! Use fun holiday-themed cookie cutters to create different shaped treats and decorate them with colored sugars and glossy icing.

- * Catch the light. Swarovski's Little Star Ornament can be displayed anywhere from the mantle to a chandelier against a window. Fill your home with these miniature six-point

stars to bring cheer into every room. Hang multiples of the same crystal ornament from a mantle, interspersed with greenery, colorful berries and candles creating a personalized holiday display.

- * Cover throw pillows with festive slipcovers or purchase simple ones and add on beads in holiday colors. All that is required is a needle and thread, some beads, trim and lots of creativity.

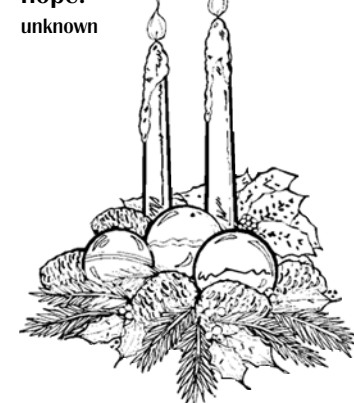
- * Fashion napkin holders out of crystal ornaments and now place them around fancy cloth napkins to top off a festive holiday table.

- * Sprinkle glitter on flat surfaces to make a holiday table, mantle, shelf, windowsill twinkle.

- * To make the new tradition of decorating together even more special, give memorable gifts to each participating member this year.

Fun with loved ones is what holiday spirit is all about. Celebrate each other. Make memories and traditions this year that will last forever.

Yesterday is but a dream, and tomorrow is only a vision, but today well lived makes every yesterday a dream of happiness and every tomorrow a vision of hope.



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Courtesy of the Louisiana Office of Tourism

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