

## Judge's rule favors W. Cameron Port

By **CYNDI SELLERS**

In a major decision, 38th Judicial District Court Judge H. Ward Fontenot ruled Tuesday in favor of the West Cameron Port and Harbor District in their long standing suit against the Lake Charles Harbor and Terminal District.

Fontenot found that the acquisition of property in the Hackberry area was valid, but that the subsequent lease of the property to an industry was illegal. He said the Lake Charles Port's authority to lease doesn't apply outside its territorial jurisdiction.

The West Cameron Port's motion for injunctive relief was granted. Fontenot said the irreparable harm was suffered when the property was made unavailable for the West Cameron Port to

fulfill its obligation to the public.

Fontenot claimed for the court the authority to craft a remedy for the irreparable harm, because the property was held by public entity in trust for a public purpose. He ordered the leased property to be transferred to the West Cameron Port, as well as the \$2.9 million in lease payments already received by the Lake Charles Port.

The judgment does not declare the lease null and void, which would have put Semptra's \$1 billion Cameron LNG facility in regulatory trouble.

Fontenot upheld the position put forth by the West Cameron Port since before Hurricane Rita, that the Lake Charles Port has no authority to conduct port business outside its territorial jurisdiction and within the

jurisdiction of another port.

Attorney Aubrey Hirsch, representing the Lake Charles Port, presented arguments to show that the lease was not only legal, but encouraged by the Cameron Parish Police Jury and the West Cameron Port.

A 2002 letter from Parish Administrator Tina Horn, authorized by the Police Jury, offered support for the then Dynegy LNG facility. A 2001 letter to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission from the West Cameron Port supported the Dynegy project as well.

Hirsch said the lawsuit was an about-face for both agencies to turn against the Lake Charles Port when it has "been nothing but a good neighbor to the West Cameron Port and Cameron Parish."

Cont. on Page 2.

## Festival set Thurs.

The 5th Annual Hackberry Holiday Festival will be held Thursday, Dec. 4 at the Hackberry Community Center from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

This Community Christmas Event will feature:

Photos with Santa, cookie decorating, holiday music, Christmas tree lighting, gumbo and beverages and

cake walk.

For information contact: Anya McInnis at [anym@sbeglobal.net](mailto:anym@sbeglobal.net)

Event partners include: Hackberry Duck off, Targa Midstream Services LP, Cameron Communications, Hackberry High School, and Deep South Productions.

Event Underwriter is the Semptra Enegy Foundation.

## Disaster Center to remain open until Dec. 12th

The Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) in Grand Lake did not close Wednesday, Nov. 26, and reopen as a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Loan Outreach Center (DLOC), as previously announced. Effective immediately the Grand Lake DRC will remain a DRC until Dec. 12, 2008.

The DRC offers help with housing, SBA loans, unemployment assistance, IRS tax information, hazard mitigation information, legal assistance referrals and more.

The DRC is located at the following address:

Cameron Parish  
Grand Lake Recreation  
District #15  
108 Recreation Lane  
Grand Lake, LA 70607

The hours of operation are Monday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. However, it will be closed on Thanksgiving Day.

Disaster Recovery Center staff can answer questions

## Lake firemen to meet Monday

The Grand Lake - Sweet Lake Volunteer Fire Department monthly meeting will be held on Monday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m. at the Grand Lake Fireman Center.

A meeting and training will be held. All members are urged to attend. For more information, call Chief Toby Landry at 912-0045.

about registration for disaster assistance and hazard mitigation, help with disaster loan applications and provide information and contacts for other programs.

Homeowners, renters and business owners affected by hurricanes Gustav and Ike are encouraged to register for assistance by calling the toll-free registration line at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) (TTY 1-800-462-7585) which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Applicants also may register on-line at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov).

## Show animals validation dates set

4-H and FFA members who will be exhibiting market hogs in the upcoming spring livestock shows must have their animals validated on Friday, Dec. 5. Cameron Parish will host two designated validation locations.

Validations will be conducted at the Hackberry High School Ag Department and in Creole at the home of Nicky Rodrigue, located between Sacred Heart Church and South Cameron Memorial Hospital.

Both sites will be open from 1 to 6 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 5. For more information, contact the Cameron Parish 4-H Office at 905-1318.

## Mural to be unveiled at G. Lake

"Vive la Louisiane!" A stained glass mural project created by The Grand Lake Talent Program, The Grand Lake Art Club, and community members will be unveiled at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 11, at Grand Lake High School 1039 Highway 384.

This artwork was funded by Cheniere Industries, Residents of Grand Lake and The Cameron Parish School Board.

## La. 27 road project bid considered

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development considered bids totaling more than \$87 million at its Nov. 12, and Nov. 26, public bid openings.

One is a Cameron Parish project.

It is an asphalt overlay, pavement patching and related work on La. 27 from 1.16 miles south of La. 390 to Kelso Bayou. The low bidder was R.E. Heidt Construction of Westlake at \$1,424,175.25.

## Aging Council Yule party set

By **DINAH LANDRY**

On Friday, Dec. 12, the Cameron Council on Aging will host its annual Christmas Party beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The day will be filled with fun, festivities, and fellowship. Lunch will be served. All seniors are invited. If you need a ride, call 905-6000.

The event will be held at the Grand Lake Fireman Center on Hwy. 384 in Grand Lake. Call for more information or to reserve your spot.



LET IT SNOW! Let it Snow! Let it Snow! These snow geese were a welcomed sight on Hwy 82 near the Cheniere LNG plant in Johnson Bayou. With so many things far from normal it was refreshing to see these winter visitors back again. (Photo by Juanita Sandifer.)

## 975 parish households get \$7.7 million from FEMA

In total, over \$7.7 million has been mailed out or direct deposited into the bank accounts of 1,020 Cameron Parish households who qualified for assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) following hurricanes Ike and Gustav. This funding assisted with housing, home repairs, furniture, clothing, appliances, vehicle repair and replacement and more.

\$6.9 million was awarded to 975 Cameron Parish households to assist with housing. Of this, over \$1,080,500 helped residents with rent in one, two and three month increments. Rental assistance has been provided to 865 Cameron Parish households at the Fair Market Rate for the area.

The Office of Planning & Development announced that a disaster recovery and preparedness workshop entitled "Back to Business" is being held on Monday December 8th at 2:30pm at the SWLA Alliance, which is located at 120 West Pujo Street in Lake Charles.

The event is open to all local businesses and is being held in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies (NIMS/AT) Institute. The goal is to provide information and resources to assist local economic recovery post-disaster as well as prior to the next disaster.

The three hour event, conceived as a technical assistance fair, will kick off with an overview of participating government agencies and continue with a moderated group question and answer session. Representatives from the participating agencies will then retreat to tables where individuals can visit and gather more personalized

## Funds told for veterans

The Department of Louisiana VFW Disaster Relief has funds for Veterans of Post 10019 of Cameron.

Please mail your name and present address to: Cmdr. Oscar Reyes at P. O. Box 639, Cameron, LA 70631 as soon as possible to receive application forms.

Over \$3,785,500 assisted Cameron Parish residents with home repairs.

Over \$2,087,900 was given to residents to assist with home replacement.

\$771,750 was awarded to 260 Cameron Parish households for other needs assistance, which includes funding to purchase furniture, replace or repair vehicles, assist with medical needs and help with critical needs.

118 Cameron Parish households were eligible for and have been provided with the maximum grant under the FEMA Individuals and Households Program of \$28,800.

Hotel stays were provided through the Transitional Sheltering Assistance Program for 190 Cameron Parish households following

hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

FEMA staff conducted over 750 pre-placement interviews for direct housing in Cameron Parish. So far, a mobile home or park model has been determined to be the most suitable housing option for 63 Cameron Parish households.

340 Cameron Parish households have been transferred to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for continued housing assistance through the Disaster Housing Assistance Program (DHAP).

Following hurricanes Katrina and Rita, over 6,110 households in Cameron Parish were eligible for federal disaster assistance.

Cont. on Page 2.

## Disaster recovery workshop to be held in Lake Charles

information regarding business concerns. Participating agencies include U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), FEMA Mitigation & Contracting Specialists.

"Back to Business" is free and open to the public. The event will focus on identified business concerns based on previous disasters such as assistance available for impacted employees and owners, loss of business, physical damage to facilities, insurance coverage, financial support, contracting and business opportunities, housing to help bring back employees and customers, environmental health issues, and more.

For more information, you may contact the Office of Planning & Development at 775-5206.

## Satellite office to open here

Beginning Monday, Dec. 8, Cameron Council on Aging and Cameron Community Action Agency will have a satellite office located in a movable building located next to Cameron Parish Library's main branch on Marshall Street for anyone needing assistance.

Applications can be received at this location from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Friday.

## Sweet Lake church 100th birthday told

The 100th anniversary of the founding of the Sweet Lake United Methodist Church will be celebrated on Sunday, Dec. 7 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

After the special 100th Anniversary Service, there will be a free catered dinner, a memorabilia display, entertainment, a video documentary, and the unveiling of a time capsule located behind the church cornerstone. The public is invited.

The Sweet Lake Memorial Methodist Church was organized Dec. 20, 1908 with the Rev. Willie Hebert as its first pastor who served to 1929. Willie Hebert was a circuit rider.

## Bishop will hold Mass at Sweetlake

Bishop Glen John Provost, D. D., Bishop of Lake Charles, will celebrate Holy Mass at St. Patrick Chapel in Sweetlake on Sunday, Dec. 7 at 8 a.m.

His Excellency will remain after Holy Mass for a reception at the church grounds and will be available to visit with you and answer any of your questions.

He will remain until time for the 10 a.m. Holy Mass so as to be available for both congregations. He will depart at 10 a.m. Holy Mass begins.

Father Joseph McGrath is church pastor.



MARTIN O. MILLER III presented T-Mae Booth with a framed photo of the original Booth's Grocery during the grand opening of the new store on Saturday. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)



THE HARVEST Connection, a disaster relief ministry sponsored by the Original Free Will Baptist Convention and based in North Carolina, has established a base camp in Cameron to house volunteers who will be in the area over the next several months. The volunteers will be helping residents and churches rebuild after Hurricane Ike. A representative said the small convention, which numbers about 250 churches, looks for locations affected by disaster but not in the spotlight, areas that might be missed by most other volunteer organizations. Cameron Parish looked that way to advance scouts. Assessment teams have been in the area locating families in need and preparing case files. Future volunteers will be matched with the needs. While some volunteers have already begun to work in the area, organizers expect the pace to pick up after Christmas. (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

# Funerals

## CLARA ETHEL BROUSSARD

Clara Ethel Ellender Broussard, 94, of Lake Charles died Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008, at her residence.

Mrs. Broussard was born in Bourg and lived in Lake Charles since 1969. She was a graduate of Terrebonne High School and received her degree in home economics in 1936 from Louisiana Normal College, now Northwestern State University.

Clara started teaching as the home economics teacher in Creole and boarded in the home of Numa and Helen Broussard, the parents of her future husband, Whitney.

They moved to Lake Charles in 1969. She was a member of Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church and Ladies Altar Society.

Clara was preceded in death by her husband, Whitney; her parents, Ernest and Mary Torr Ellender; one sister, Ellen Walker; one brother, Dr. Ernest Ellender; and a grandson, David Allen McCall.

She is survived by five daughters, Mary Ann Vineyard of Austin, Tex., Helen Hughes of Lafayette Ethel Fruge, Elaine Trahan

and Patricia Gorin, all of Lake Charles; three sons, Whitney J. Broussard Jr. of Bastrop, David Broussard of Dallas and Dr. Richard Broussard of Lafayette; 20 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

Her funeral Mass was held Monday, Dec. 1, from Our Lady Queen of Heaven Catholic Church. Monsignor Ronald Groth and the Rev. Harold Trahan officiated. Burial was in Consolata Cemetery under the direction of Johnson Funeral Home.

## WILLIAM HARRIS WADKINS

William Harris Wadkins, 63, of Hemphill, Tex. died Thursday, Nov. 27, 2008. He was a native of Augusta, Ga. and had lived in Hackberry for three years.

He was a tug boat captain and was of Baptist faith.

A memorial service was held Wednesday Dec. 3 at the Starr Funeral Home in Hemphill with the Rev. Marvin Davis officiating.

Survivors include his wife, Beulah Wadkins of Hackberry; one son, William H. Wadkins of Hemphill; three daughters, Angela Barfield of Houston, Tex.,

# Symposium to be held on coast

The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana will hold a Chenier Plain Symposium, Jan. 8 and 9 at the Lake Charles Civic Center.

The symposium will include approximately 20 presentations by experts in numerous fields from both Louisiana and Texas. Experts will discuss topics including the history of the Chenier Plain, restoration projects' successes and failures, resource availability, innovative new ideas for restoration and protection, community resiliency, wildlife and fisheries uses, and impacts from hurricanes, including Hurricane Rita and the recent impacts of Hurricane Ike.

Stakeholder panels on land management issues and the Southwest Coastal Louisiana Study will openly review the information presented and discuss the prevalent issues for the future sustainability of the Chenier Plain region.

The cost of attending the symposium is \$50 per day for pre-registration and includes lunch and snacks each day as well as an evening reception on Jan. 8.

For more information and to register, please visit the website at [www.crcl.org](http://www.crcl.org) or call 888-522-6278.

Satarie Barfield-Leger of Sulphur, Julie Ann Sweeney of Humble, two brothers, Ron Wadkins of Hilton, N. Y. and Mark Wadkins of Bremerton, Wash.; four sisters, Linda Wadkins Corlette of Darien, Ga., Kathryn Ray of Ladson, S. C., Helen Wadkins Connelly of Charleston, S. C. and Joyce Wadkins of Strouberg, Va.; and five grandchildren.



PAUL AND Cyndi Sellers (center) of First Baptist Church in Cameron, accept a \$2000 check sent by the Owens Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Elm City, North Carolina, to help rebuild the church. Presenting the check were Bennett and Sandy White, representing the Original Free Will Baptist Disaster Relief Ministry.

## JUDGE'S RULE

Cont. from Page 1

"We were a good neighbor; we did exactly what they asked us to do," he said.

He claimed that the lease for the purpose of operating a business was legal because the Port needs the income to fund maintenance of the Calcasieu Ship Channel. He said the Port would need about \$65 million over the next 20 years to maintain the channel.

Fontenot questioned whether the Lake Charles Port could use that reasoning to operate a business anywhere, even Beauregard Parish, for the purpose of raising money for the ship channel. He asked what was to stop any of the other 38 Louisiana ports could move into another port's jurisdiction and do business under the same reasoning.

Hirsch also contended that transferring the property to the West Cameron Port without compensation would violate the constitutional rights of the Lake Charles Port.

He said that if the lease is illegal, the remedy would be to declare it invalid, and Cameron LNG would be trespassing, and then Cameron LNG could sue the Lake Charles Port for damages, but West Cameron has no claim to the money.

Speaking for the West Cameron Port, attorney Randy Theunissen said the land was purchased legally, but the subsequent allegedly illegal lease made the payments fruits of an illegal act, and the Lake Charles Port should not be rewarded for

## Sheriff's arrests

The Cameron Sheriff's Dept. made the following arrests Nov. 25-Dec. 2:

Charles Nicholas Belanger, 42, Houma; Poss. of Marijuana and Theft.

Joseph Charles Grabolski Jr., 48, Hampton, S. C.; Accessory After the Fact.

Rustin Holcom, 44, 11269 Hwy 384, Lake Charles; Careless Operation, D.W.I.

Joshua Lee Landreneaux, 24, Westlake; Resisting an Officer.

Juan Jose De Larosa Cahuich-Huicab, 43, Illegal Alien.

Byron K. Stout, 57, Opelousas; Reckless Operation, D.W.I.

Paul Easdon Brunet, 40, Houma; Public Intoxication, Littering.

Ryan James Aguillard, 22, Lake Charles; Probation Violation, Bench Warrant.

## \$7.7 MILLION

Cont. from Page 1

Cameron Parish households received more than \$38.4 million in housing and other needs assistance.

1,188 Cameron Parish residents were housed in FEMA direct housing (mobile homes, travel trailers and park models). Of those,

933 were on private sites  
187 were on commercial sites

65 were on group sites  
5 were on industrial sites.

47 Cameron Parish households continue to reside in Katrina/Rita FEMA direct housing.

Cameron Parish residents who require additional assistance are encouraged to contact the FEMA helpline at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362), visit our Web site at [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) or call 1-888-294-2822.

For referrals to voluntary agencies and community resources, please call #211.

that illegal act. Lake Charles Port Attorney Mike Dees said the judgement will be appealed immediately.

## Grand Chenier Library news

Come Join in the Fun at the Grand Chenier Library, the schedule of events is as follows:

"Crossword Daze" 10 a.m. daily.

Thursday, Dec. 4 - Kids Fun Day - Movie Time, 1-2 p.m., Low Impact Walking Program 2 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 5 - Louisiana Spirit Hurricane Recovery Team, games and crafts for children 1-3 p.m.

Monday, Dec. 8 - Kids Fun Day - Story Time 1-2 p.m., Low Impact Walking Program 2 p.m.

Tuesday, Dec. 9 - Kids Fun Day - Movie Time 1-2 p.m., Low Impact Walking Program 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 10 - Kids Fun Day - Story Time 1-2 p.m., Low Impact Walking Program 2 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 11 - Kids Fun Day - Movie Time 1-2 p.m., Low Impact Walking Program 2 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 12 - Louisiana Spirit Hurricane Recovery Team, Games and crafts for children 1-3 p.m.

Please call 538-2214 for more information about our weekly programs.



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Jerry and Joy Wise, Editors & Publishers; Jeffra Wise DeViney, Advertising Manager; Shirley Johnson, Production Manager; Sue Crise, Julie Fletcher, Crystal Nix, Tina Poole, Dustin Royer, and Dawn Spears, Staff Members  
The Cameron Pilot, 110 Asa St., P.O. Box 1486, Cameron, La. 70631. Published Weekly. Entered as periodical mail at Cameron, La., 70631 and Lake Charles, La., 70601. Post Office, Periodical Postage paid.  
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Cameron Pilot, P.O. Box 995, DeQuincy, La. 70633.  
Subscription Rates: \$25.00 a year (tax included) in Cameron & Calcasieu Parishes; \$27.00 elsewhere in La., \$35.00 elsewhere in USA.

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- Brown's Market Grand Lake
- Grand Lake Discounts Grand Lake
- Chesson Grocery Sweetlake
- Brown's Grocery Hackberry

# LBP show to tell story of Cajun soldiers



REV. JAMES Moore (center) pastor of the Wakefield Methodist Church in Cameron, accepts a \$2000 check from the Owens Chapel Free Will Baptist Church in Elk City, North Carolina, to help rebuild the church. Presenting the check were Bennett and Sandy White, representing the Original Free Will Baptist Church Disaster Relief Ministry.

Acclaimed film maker Pat Mire and Louisiana Public Broadcasting have teamed up to tell the story of the French-speaking Cajun soldiers who served with honor during WWII. The documentary is called *Mon Cher Camarade* and will premiere on LPB and LPB HD on Tuesday, Dec. 9, at 8 p.m.

Hundreds of French-Louisiana Cajun's served as interpreters for their field commanders and several of them were secret agents who passed as local's to work with the French underground. This documentary blends an original music sound track, 35mm film footage and HD interviews with stunning archival footage from the National Archives in a storytelling fashion that puts the story-telling where it belongs - on the shoulders of those veterans.

"Cajun translators were as important to the American war effort as the now much acclaimed Native American 'Code Talkers,' yet, the Cajun translators' contributions in this regard have been largely ignored until now," Historian Carl Brasseux said.

The Cajun G. I.'s of World War II were American citizens; however, their culture was very foreign to most other Americans. The film acknowledges the unique and important contributions of the French-speaking Cajun soldiers to the war effort and gives long overdue credit to them and their linguistic skills and French heritage.

"I began the journey that led to the production of this film with a brief conversation several years back with historian Stephen Ambrose whose father was one of the Cajun soldiers who fought during the war," Producer/director Pat Mire said. "Recognizing that an important aspect of the American war effort during WWII had not been told - that of the role of French-speaking Cajun soldiers - he urged me to tell it."

The documentary was written, produced and directed by Pat Mire. It was edited by Todd Justice and Mire. Rebecca L. Hudsmith served as Associate Producer.

park taken over, and it took us four to five months to get eviction orders. We didn't know how to get the bad eggs out."

He said each applicant will undergo a background check and that park officials will not accept applications from violent offenders or registered sex offenders.

A warning system will apply to each occupant, with first-time offenders receiving a written warning. Two-time offenders will be required to sign up for the Families in Need of Service program, and residents will be evicted after the third offense.

Park officials will schedule regular neighborhood meetings for new families to acquaint them with existing residents.

He said the park is working with the Louisiana State University AgCenter to provide support services for new residents. Those services include in-home family counseling; classes in parenting, conflict resolution, health and nutrition, financial planning and life skills; career counseling; and job training.

Turner said park officials are meeting with state and FEMA officials to work out free daily bus service for residents to and from Cameron Parish.

Original music for the program was composed by Sam Broussard.

The documentary was shot by Eric Breaux, Rex Q. Fortenberry and JWJ "Jimmy" Ferguson. Chris Miranda was the Post-Production Supervisor for LPB with Mark Carroll and Todd Justice providing graphics.

This program was made possible by a grant from the Louisiana Endowment for The Humanities,

### ABOUT THE PRODUCER

Pat Mire is an award-winning documentary filmmaker born near Eunice, and is now based in Lafayette. Mire's cultural documentaries have been broadcast nationally in the United States on PBS, the Discovery Channel, and TNN's American Skyline.

His documentaries have won awards in national and international competitions, including the Margaret Mead Film Festival and the American Anthropological Film Festival, at which he won the coveted "Award of Excellence."

Mire's feature film debut, *Dirty Rice*, was an official entry at the 1998 London Film Festival, where it played to two sold-out auditoriums. Mire directed *Against the Tide: The Story of the Cajun People*, which was a November 2000 PBS "Pick of the Week." Other Mire co-productions with LPB include *Forever My Love: Music from the Bayou*, and *Swapping Stories: Folktales from Louisiana*.

For more information, contact Bob Neese at LPB at 1-800-272-8161 or bneese@lpb.org.

### G. Chenier KCs to meet

The Evans P. Mhire Knights of Columbus Council of St. Eugene Catholic Church, Grand Chenier will hold its monthly meeting at the home of Zeke Wainwright on Tuesday, Dec. 9. The Rosary will be recited at 6:30 p.m. followed by the business meeting. A meal with refreshments will be served afterwards.

This is the first meeting since Hurricane Ike. All members are urged to attend in order to update address changes and phone numbers.

District Deputy Jimmy Paul Saltzman and Insurance Field Agent Michael Gulsby will be in attendance to answer questions. For further information contact Grand Knight Garry Primeaux at 842-4746.



HAPPY THANKSGIVING! Glenn Trahan and Jim Snyder, members of the Knights of Columbus in Johnson Bayou, deliver turkeys to residents. This year, "Home for the Holidays", will have a very special meaning. (Photo by Juanita Sandifer.)

### HUD awards funds for storm recovery efforts

U. S. Sen. David Vitter applauded the recent award of \$438 million in disaster recovery funds to Louisiana from the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The emergency funding is provided through HUD's Community Development Block Grant Program to assist with continued disaster recovery efforts in Louisiana.

"We are still working to move forward with our recovery from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike, and these funds are

awarded to the state to be applied to a variety of recovery projects," said Vitter. "Thousands of displaced families, farmers, fishermen and other Louisianans are still in need of assistance, and the award of these funds can help them get back on their feet."

In FY08, Congress appropriated more than \$6 billion in funds to disaster relief and long-term recovery needs. This recent allocation is the first installment of 2008 funding by HUD.

### Mobile home park open to parish homeless

By JOHN GUIDROZ (American Press)

The Country Aire Mobile Home Park wants to fill nearly 100 lots with temporary homes for Cameron Parish residents left homeless by Hurricane Ike.

Spokesman Mike Turner said Tuesday that eligible applicants may qualify for a three-bedroom, one-bathroom mobile home from the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

FEMA will pay for maintenance, electricity, water, sewer, trash and lawn care for 18 months or, in some cases, longer. He said the first lease was officially signed on Tuesday.

Qualified applicants could receive a temporary home in as early as three weeks, Turner said. The park is at 2465 La. 397.

He said the housing option is the "best of what can be offered" since FEMA issued preliminary flood

maps that put more than 80 percent of Cameron in a high-risk flooding zone, or V zone.

Since the maps were released, several Cameron residents in the commercial fishing industry have decided to live in tents or purchase campers to stay inside the park.

Turner said the mobile homes are an "opportunity for Cameron residents to have a home for themselves."

The mobile homes can withstand winds of up to 110 mph, and each unit is inspected for formaldehyde before it is delivered to the park, he said.

For Ike, Turner said, park officials are being more selective in the application process than they were for Hurricane Rita. About 30 mobile homes at the park are occupied by Rita victims.

"We missed the mark because we just housed people and walked away," Turner said. "We had our

## Amazing Grace

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His excellency will remain after Holy Mass for a reception on the church grounds and will be available to visit with you and answer any of your questions.

He will remain until time for the 10:00 a.m. Holy Mass so as to be available for both congregations.

His Excellency will depart as 10:00 Holy Mass begins.

Reverend Father Joseph McGrath

# Cameron Outdoors

By LOSTON MCEVERS



## GOOD THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving has come and gone, fried turkey and smoked goose with all the trimmings enjoyed with friends and family, felt good, taking Hurricane Ike cleanup off your mind.

Thanksgiving Eve we enjoyed fresh goose gumbo so I decided to make a shrimp, crawfish, and crab gumbo, of course you've got to have a potato salad and some good baked sweet potatoes. This is what country living here in Cameron Parish is all about, and the best part is, you shot the goose, caught the crabs, but had to buy the shrimp and crawfish, all shrimp caught out of Cameron.

The Big Lake fishing has been good, but the cold front that came through last week had the lake choppy. Limits of trout were being taken early working the birds, not far from Hebert's Landing toward Turner's Bay. Also night fishing from the banks or wharfs has been good.

The Mermentau River in Grand Chenier slowed on Redfish, but big drums were taken before the cold front. I still like fishing the shallow marsh for redfish. I find you don't catch as many large redfish, but the good eating reds are 16 to 20 inches.

Toledo Bend has been good fishing in 2 to 6 feet just on the outer grass early

mornings and then moving out to deeper water, 15 to 20 feet. Spinnerbaits in the grass, crankbaits and Texas style worming outside the grass and deeper water, (use 1/2 oz. bullet weight).

There are logs floating in the boat lanes and some stumps just under water, as the lakes are 4 feet low at 168 feet, while Sam Rayburn is 7 feet lower. Both these lakes are still producing nice bass when calm enough to get around, but they're both extremely dangerous, so take your time and cut back on the throttle, and be sure to buckle up the old life jacket.

## HUNTING

Our hunting season will take a few days break as we wait for the second split to open on Dec. 13. The first split was fair to me, the first part was better than the last week. My marsh is lacking the teal shooting we had the first two weeks of the season. I hunted my blind 16 days the first split and averaged 7.69 ducks per day, however only bagging one goose and one coot. Only four pintails and two mallards, the rest were wigeons, gray ducks and teal. I think the marsh is still to salty from Hurricane Ike and not enough feed. I'm getting the fly over from the northern marshes to the beach. The



OVER FIFTY 4-H livestock exhibitors, parents, and adult leaders, despite the cold temperatures, turned out for the 4-H Livestock Clinic held on Nov. 22, at Burton Coliseum. Pictured is Karen Theriot, better known as the rabbit lady, working with 4-Her to learn more about raising and showing their rabbits.

## South Cameron High School News

Jr. and Sr. 4-H are conducting a can food drive. Sr. 4-Hers are to bring can goods to Mrs. D'Juana or Mrs. Tina and Jr. 4-Hers are to bring can goods to Mrs. Melisa.

Tarpon sweat suit orders are currently being taken in the high school office. You must prepay.

Jr. Beta members are reminded to bring two items for Santa's stocking.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

Dec. 3, 4, & 6 - Hackberry

Basketball Tourney - SPAR in Sulphur.

Dec. 9 - Club Meetings, Girls and Boys Basketball - Johnson Bayou - Away - SPAR.

Dec 10 - Senior Pictures - Everyone must take this picture.

Dec 11 - Progress Reports will be sent out, Girls and Boys Basketball - Hackberry - Away - SPAR.

Dec 13 - ACT Test.  
Dec 18 - Christmas Holidays.

## Livestock show set for January

Livestock show time is a very exciting time of the year for livestock exhibitors, their family and the staff at the 4-H office. Over 100 Cameron Parish youth participated in the 4-H livestock program last year and a comparable number is expected for this year. The Cameron Parish showset for Jan. 16, 17, and 18, will be held at Burton Coliseum in Lake Charles.

To help prepare 4-H livestock exhibitors for success in the show ring a livestock clinic was conducted on Nov. 22 at Burton Coliseum. Over 40 exhibitors attended the clinic, which was sponsored by the Cameron Parish Jr. Leader Club.

Adult volunteers from around the parish guided participants in learning about the health and care of their animal while also nurturing key skills needed to be strong competitors and well-rounded individuals.



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## Basketball Scores

By CHRIS & LAURIE MUELLER

**BOYS**  
Grand Lake 64, Oberlin 41 - The Hornets were led by Jayce Hebert and Jordan Hebert with 16 points each in the championship game of the Kinder tourney.

Grand Lake 59, Elton 44 - Jordan Hebert led all scorers with 18 points. Jayce Hebert added 14 points.

**GIRLS**  
Hackberry 29, Sam Houston 28 - DJ Simon scored 12 points for the Lady Mustangs.

Grand Lake 49, Kinder 33 - Kat Kingham scored 17 points for the Lady Hornets in the championship game of the Kinder tourney. Liz Kingham added 14 as Grand Lake improves to 16-0 on the year.

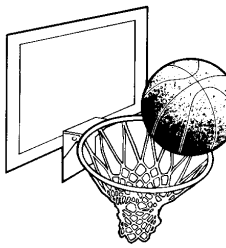
Starks 79, South Cameron 35 - Shelby Willis scored 16 points for the Lady Tarpons. Haley McCall added 10 points.

East Beauregard 71, South Cameron 30 - Haley McCall led the Lady Tarpons with 14 points.

Hackberry 42, Westlake 40 - Allyson Sanner scored 13 points for Hackberry.

Grand Lake 73, Oberlin 51 - Kat Kingham led all scorers with 25 points. Liz Kingham added 17 and Amber Trahan scored 11 points.

Barbe 50, Hackberry 32 - Allyson Sanner scored 14 points for the Lady Mustangs.



## 7 Tarpons on All District 5-1A team

By CHRIS & LAURIE MUELLER

The South Cameron Tarpons had seven players named to the All District 5-1A football team. Junior Dex Murphy was named to the first team offense as a running back and defense first team as a defensive back.

Other first team offense selections were senior tight end Jody Troclair, and senior offensive guard Tony Baccigalopi. First team defense selections were senior defensive lineman Jordan Rutherford and junior linebacker Hunter Canik.

Second team honors went to wide receiver Ross Rowland, defensive lineman Ty Savoie, linebacker Jody Troclair, and defensive back Dylan Conner.

## School lunch menus told

Cameron Parish school lunch menus are as follows:

Friday, Dec. 5, Baked ham, lettuce cup, carrots, yellow cake, pineapple topping, wheat sliced bread, mayonnaise pack, milk

Monday, Dec. 8, Sloppy joe, carrots, oven fries, oatmeal cookies, catsup, hamburger bun, milk.

Tuesday, Dec. 9, Hot ham and cheese, green beans, Tator Tots, Jello, hamburger bun, mayonnaise pack, catsup, milk.

Wednesday, Dec. 10, Chili dog, chili sauce, whole kernel corn, pickle wedges, apple crisp wedges, mayonnaise pack, hot dog bun, milk.

Thursday, Dec. 11, Turkey roast, rice, lima beans, orange wedges, cornbread, milk.

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last day I had four ducks, but nobody hunted from the camp and further down except one hunter who had a black mallard. We did bag two black mallards but no greenheads or even a hen mallard. Let's hope we get more ducks in for our second split. I did talk to some Grand Lake hunters and they said they were doing good on ducks the past week and also on geese.

## GOOSE HUNTING

North of Gibbstown, there are lots of geese in some of the rice fields and also just south of the Cameron Prairie Refuge. There are speckle belly, and also in the pond to the east, there are lots of mix ducks. This is on the refuge.

A survey in all flyways; the central and Mississippi flyways has the most population (5 million) of wintering geese. It seems the duck population is declining while the geese population number is flourishing. The U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service says the harvest is greater on younger stupid geese, but I find that the blues, snow and ross geese are smarter than they used to be. The ross goose, the smaller North American goose often travels with snow geese. One thing about it, you got to have good concealment to hunt geese especially specks or ring necks.



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# It Seems Just Like Yesterday

By KEITH HAMBRICK



## Lake Charles American Press Dec. 4, 1940 COTTON REFERENDUM COMMISSIONERS ARE NAMED

Twenty-one Cameron Parish farmers have been designated to serve as referendum commissioners for the cotton referendum in Cameron Parish Saturday.

The men were named by the parish committee at a meeting held in the AAA office in Cameron Friday.

The commissioners are as follows:

Grand Chenier: E. O. Stewart, Joseph Nunez, Sam S. Doland, members.

Cameron: S. D. Broussard; George Duris, Dellino LeBoeuf.

Big Lake: J. O. Hebert, Anderson Reon, Alie Demarest.

Creole: Tom Mudd, Ozema Savoy, Berton LaBaue.

Johnson Bayou: Fred Erbeling, Roland Jinks, Jimmie Young.

Sweet Lake: Dupre Guidry, Lazime LeBoeuf, Lyons Breaux, members.

Klondike: Whitney Landry, Sidney Vincent, and Jessie Lanthier.

## Cameron Pilot Dec. 4, 1974 NOMINATIONS FOR FUR KING

W. F. Henry, Jr., chairman of the King Fur Committee of the Louisiana Fur and Wildlife Festival, announced that nominations have been closed for King Fur VII who will reign over the 1976 festival. Festival board members are asked to submit nominations on the "greatest American citizens in Cameron Parish."

The King committee will meet on Dec. 15 to count the ballots. The identify of the king will not be announced until the night of Jan. 9, 1976, the first night of the festival.

Nominees are: C. A. Riggs, Ernest Carol Trahan, Edras B. Nunez, J. B. Jones, Roland Primeaux, J. Berton Daigle, Benny Backlund, Conway LeBleu, Claude Eagleson, John H. Meaux, Charlie Hebert, E. J. Dronet, J. A. Davis, Ellis McWhiter, Ray Burleigh and Jerry G. Jones.

## LONG-LINERS ARE IN THE GULF

By GENEVA GRIFFITH

Are the Japanese "Long-Liners" plying their trade in the Gulf off the Cameron coast?

The evidence was pretty clear recently that they are, with the finding of some of their colorful buoys, clearly marked in Japanese, on Hackberry Beach.

Growing concern is being registered among sports fishermen over the Japanese commercial fishing vessels which move into the southern Gulf and systematically fish Louisiana's offshore waters.

Distance appears to mean nothing to the Japanese



THE SWEET LAKE Methodist Church members will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the church. Pictured above were five pastors who attended a homecoming at the church in 1956. From left were Rev. Martin Hebert, (a brother of the first pastor, Rev. Willie Hebert) Rev. Hubert Gibbs (pastor at the time), and former pastors Revs. E. W. Day, C. W. Quaid and C. J. Thibodeaux.

whose long-line ships have extended their operations over all the productive tropical and sub-tropical waters of the world.

## CITIZENS AWARD IS SATURDAY

An outstanding citizen of Cameron Parish will be honored with the presentation of the 1975 Veterans of Foreign Wars

Doxey-Vincent Citizenship Award, at a banquet Saturday evening, Dec. 6, at the Cameron Recreation Center.

Principal speaker at the banquet will be Sen. J. Bennett Johnston. He will be introduced by State Rep. Conway LeBleu.

The award winner was selected from among nominees submitted by parish civic, fraternal and veterans groups.

Winners of the award in the past were: Ray Champagne, 1960; Joe W. Doxey, 1961; Hadley Fontenot, 1962; Dalton Richard, 1963; Thomas (Sonny) McCall, 1964; Mrs. Conway LeBleu, 1965; Mrs. Roberta Rogers, 1966; Donald Broussard, 1967; Mrs. Helen Colligan, 1968; Deil Lalande, 1969; Telsmar Bonsall, 1970; Mrs. Bynum Shove, 1971; Johnny Boudoin, 1972; Dorothy S. Bourgeois, 1973; Roland Primeaux, 1974.

## 4-H LEADERS MEETING

Four 4-H adult local leaders from Cameron Parish attended the District Leader Conference in Lafayette on Nov. 13. Mrs. Walter Dupuis, Mrs. Evans Mhire, Mrs. Pete Rutherford (all from Grand Chenier) and Mrs. Clifford Conner (Creole) were accompanied by Gary Wicke, Assistant County Agent and Miss Eileen Wittler, Assistant Home Economist.

## DUCK HUNTING By ELORA MONTIE

The first half of the duck season ended Sunday, with the report that the 30 days had been very successful. Not only was there a large turnout of hunters, but most of the hunters were able to get their limits.

There was plenty of feed in the north marshes for the



# Center open until Dec. 12 at G. Lake

By DINAH LANDRY

On Friday, Dec. 12, the Cameron Council on Aging will host its annual Christmas Party beginning at 9:30 a.m.

The day will be filled with fun, festivities, and fellowship. Lunch will be served. All seniors are invited. If you need a ride, call 905-6000.

The event will be held at the Grand Lake Fireman Center on Hwy. 384 in Grand Lake. Call for more information or to reserve your spot.

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ducks and hunting was especially good there. In the marshes south of the Chenier ridge, the ducks were not as plentiful.

## POLICE JURY BUDGET

Eleven budgets for 1976 totaling \$2,555,670.90 were adopted by the Cameron Parish Police Jury Tuesday. Garner Nunez, parish treasurer, said all of the budgets represented current anticipated revenues with no funds taken from surpluses.

A number of appointments were made by the jury. Mrs. Laura Bonsall was renamed to the Cameron Welfare Board. Tommy Goodrich was reappointed to the sewerage board and Lynn Trahan was named to the water board. Paul Gerald Touchett was named to the Ward 5 recreation commission replacing Don Billiot, who resigned. Police Juror Ray Conner was named to the parish mosquito control board replacing Clifford Myers, who resigned.

## ROUNABOUT

## THE PARISH

College students visiting their parents during the Thanksgiving holidays included: Anthony and Rudolph Bartie, Jr., Charles Cole, Daniel Cox, Veronica Hebert, Elray LaSalle, Jr., Michael McArthur, and Michael Semien, all of MSU. Homer Williams of Jonesville, Jr. College, Miss Marion Harrison and guest, Ronald Wade, Jr., LSU, and Gregory Harrison of Tulane.



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# Gil Pinac announces for Public Service Commission

Gil Pinac, a former State Representative and Chairman of the House Commerce Committee, is in the race for Louisiana Public Service Commissioner. A special election is set for April 4, 2009, to replace the Public Service Commission member for District 4, who left office to accept another job. The runoff date, if needed, will be May 2, 2009.



Gil Pinac

Pinac noted that he has been dealing with utility companies, which are regulated by the PSC, since his days as a City Councilman and Mayor Pro-Tem in Crowley, where he served for nine years (1986-1995) before being elected to the state legislature in 1995, where he served until January 2008.

Pinac, 51, seeks to replace Dale Sittig of Eunice, who resigned that post recently to accept a job with Louisiana's Offshore Oil Port. Sittig served from November 1995 until he left in October 2008.

District 4 of the Louisiana public Service Commission (LPSC) is comprised of all or part of the state including Beauregard, Calcasieu, and Cameron Parishes.

Pinac is a hospital administrator in Crowley. He is a graduate of Notre Dame High School of Acadia

Parish, has a bachelor's degree in business from USL, and earned an MBA from LSU. He is married to Cherie Arceneaux, and is the father of four daughters. The Pinacs are members of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Crowley.

The LPSC consists of five elected Commissioners who serve overlapping terms of six years created by the 1921 Constitution of the State of Louisiana. It succeeded the Railroad Commission of Louisiana that was created by the 1898 Constitution.

# Jury votes on where to locate offices of mosquito control

By CYNDI SELLERS

Mosquito problems affect every citizen in Cameron Parish, and the location of a new facility for the Cameron Parish Mosquito Abatement District, commonly called Mosquito Control, has been the subject of dissention since before Hurricane Rita. It seems to be settled, for now, with a split vote by the Police Jury on Monday night.

Jurors voted 4-3 to enter into a cooperative agreement with the District to house the facility in the new Cameron-Creole Maintenance Barn, just as it was before the storms. The plan changes required for the move will cost the parish an estimated \$300,000.

Jurors Steve Racca was the most vocal opponent, saying, "I have a problem. We're going to put them in our building, yet we still have mosquitoes and no system of checks and balances. They have a tax base, we don't." He asked who was in charge of the director, and suggested that if he doesn't do his job the Board should fire him.

Jury President Sonny McGee said the Jury has already done all it can do to get the mosquito problem under control, short of dissolving the Board and calling for a new tax, by enlarging the Board and appointing new members. He asked for time for the new board to work.

The Mosquito Control Board had been told that it could not spend ad valorem tax money on a building, but Juror Charles Precht said the bond validation suit brought for the Chenier PILOT bond issue allows any taxes to be used for capital improvement during this hurricane recovery.

One of the new board members, Paul Sellers, was present. He told the Jury that the Board had held several meetings to discuss the new building, and several Police Jurors had brought them the proposal to move into their building. He said "We don't have the money. The Air Force spraying after Ike helped us or we would be in the red. We understand the problem in Hackberry and Johnson Bayou. Those in there now are trying to make the best arrangement possible for people in Cameron Parish. We felt that \$300,000 is better than \$850,000 for a building in Grand Lake. Any new tax money will be used to spray mosquitoes."

The District will have to pay utilities and a reasonable rent or lease, since the parish cannot legally give away assets to another entity.

Voting for the agreement were McGee, Thomas McDaniel, Kirk Burleigh, and Scott Trahan. Voting against were Racca, Precht, and Darrell Farque.

Jurors voted unanimously to appropriate \$15,000 for Recreation District #5 to replace a metal roof.

The low bid of \$2,110,625.60, by Bessette Development, was accepted for parishwide road improvements, phase 1.

Plan changes for several projects were approved, the most expensive being

\$570,288.46 for damage to the Jetty Fishing Pier project due to Hurricane Ike. Farque questioned why the contractor should be paid to re-mobilize his equipment, but Parish Administrator Tina Horn said the contractor had finished the dirt and gravel work and removed his equipment when Ike removed the gravel and destroyed the previous dirt work. The pier suffered additional damage as well.

## LIQUOR PERMIT

A liquor permit for Catherine Melton, for the Remember When bar in Grand Lake, was tabled pending routine investigation by the Sheriff's Office. Nearby residents presented a petition in opposition to the permit, signed by 150 neighbors. Mr. Doxey, spokesman for the group, said there are small children living very close to the proposed bar, and a snow cone stand and churches nearby. He said drunk drivers are already a problem there and a bar will make it worse.

A water control permit requested by Gravity Drainage District #7 was tabled for further investigation. Holly Beach resident Loretta Meaux asked for information about any study of the proposed rock weir. Meaux was speaking for oyster fisheries interests, and was concerned about the sustainability of the oyster beds in Oyster Bayou.

Jurors approved the hiring of two road and bridge employees for the Johnson Bayou area and two firefighters for the Cameron Fire District. They also approved the purchase on state contract of 8 trucks and one motor grader for the Road and Bridge department.

A one year extension was given to parish employees for comp time rollover to allow employees time to use comp time earned during Hurricane Ike recovery.

Mitchell Baccigalopi was appointed to Recreation District #7, replacing Angelia Conner, who resigned.

A special meeting was scheduled for Dec. 15 at 1 pm to finalize the 2009 budget.

# Hotel aid is offered for victims

The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) announced that it has begun accepting receipts for reimbursement of hotel stays incurred by victims of Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

Verifiable receipts for victims of either Hurricane Gustav or Ike will be accepted for reimbursement for eligible applicants who were mandatorily evacuated or stayed in hotels while their primary residence was uninhabitable.

Qualifying applicants must not have been reimbursed by any other source, such as the state, a voluntary agency or their insurance company. Eligible charges include room charges and taxes only up to the General Services Administration established rates for the local area.

Additionally, those applicants whose hotel stays were paid directly by FEMA via the direct hotel payment process are not eligible for reimbursement.

Disaster victims who are unsure whether or not they qualify for reimbursement are encouraged to call FEMA to determine their eligibility at: 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or TTY 1-800-462-7585.

For additional information on disaster preparedness, please visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

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# Small business workshop to be held in Lake Charles

The Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance will host "Back to Business," a disaster recovery and preparedness workshop tailored to small businesses, at its 120 West Pujo Street location in Lake Charles on Dec. 8, 2008 at 2:30 p.m.

Held in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the National Incident Management Systems and Advanced Technologies (NIMSAT) Institute, the event is open to all local businesses. The goal is to provide information and resources to assist local economic recovery post-disaster as well as prior to the next disaster.

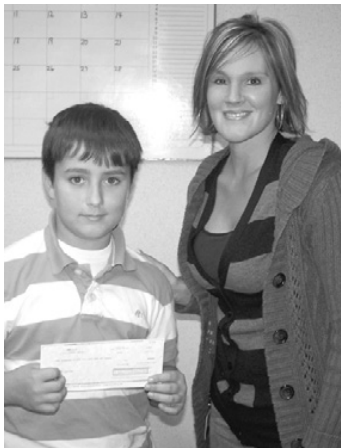
The three hour event, conceived as a technical assistance fair, will kick off with an overview of participating government agencies and continue with a moderated group question and answer session. Representatives from the participating agencies will then retreat to tables where individuals can visit and gather more personalized information regarding business concerns.

Participating agencies include U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), Internal Revenue Service (IRS), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development, FEMA Mitigation Specialists and the U.S. General Services Administration.

"Back to Business" is free and open to the public. The event will focus on identified business concerns based on previous disasters such as assistance available for impacted employees and owners, loss of business, physical damage to facilities, insurance coverage, financial support, contracting and

business opportunities, housing to help bring back employees and customers, environmental health issues and more.

For more information, contact the Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance at 433-3632.



CAMERON COMMUNICATIONS Public Relations Coordinator, Trina Johnson is shown presenting a \$250 check to Brycen Savoie, 6th Grade student from Grand Lake High School. The donation will be used to sponsor his trip to Washington D. C. in January for the 2009 Presidential Inauguration.



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# Workforce Commission gets funds to help pay storm claims

The Louisiana Workforce Commission announced that it has been approved to receive an additional \$2.5 million from FEMA to pay Disaster Unemployment Assistance claims resulting from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

The Commission has been paying DUA benefits to 1,310 claimants, but payments had been delayed for 2,800 others pending the release of funds from the federal government.

Of the \$2.5 million,

\$500,000 will be released for payment this week.

This puts the total at around \$1.3 million paid to 4,110 claimants in the Disaster Unemployment Assistance program. The remaining funds will be used to pay continuing claims.

The Commission will begin processing those payments this week, and claimants should expect to see benefits by the end of the week.

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# Suggestion given on selection of plants for the holidays

By DAN GILL  
LSU AgCenter  
Horticulturist

Of the many kinds of plants we use to decorate our homes for the holidays, the holiday cactuses possess a special beauty. And yes, despite the fact that these plants don't possess spines, they are true cactuses. Unlike poinsettias, which are generally discarded when the season is over, with proper care holiday cactuses will produce their gorgeous flowers for you during the holidays year after year.

The "uncactus" appearance of these plants has to do with where their ancestors live in nature. They do not live in deserts but come from the rainforests of Brazil. There, these plants are epiphytes - they get their moisture and nutrients from the air and rain. They spend their lives perched up in trees with their roots in pockets of decaying organic matter in cavities along the tree branches. This explains much about how we need to care for holiday cactuses to keep them healthy.

The original species used to develop holiday cactuses are Schlumbergera truncata - the Thanksgiving cactus - and Schlumbergera russelliana - the Christmas cactus. The Thanksgiving cactus is distinguished by sharp, teeth-like edges on the flat stem joints, while the Christmas cactus has rounded scallops on the edges of its flat stems. Breeders have, however, crossed these species together, and the plants you purchase these days are not true Thanksgiving or Christmas cactuses but are generally hybrids of the two. They can have either teeth, rounded scallops or something in between. For this reason, we have adopted the name "holiday cactus" to refer to these plants that will bloom any time from November through January. Breeding has produced more robust, upright plants that are easier to grow with larger flowers in a greater color range.

You can choose a holiday cactus that has flowers the color you prefer, such as red, magenta, pink, rose, lavender, white, salmon, pale gold or orange. When you buy one, it should have mostly large buds that are showing color and a few open flowers.

It's very common for young flower buds to drop from a plant once you get it home, primarily because of rapid changes in the plant's growing conditions. But don't worry. Place your holiday cactus plant in a brightly lit location, such as by a window, so that it gets plenty

of light.

Avoid heat sources, and choose a location that tends to stay cooler, especially at night. Also, don't allow the plant to dry out when it's in bloom, or buds will drop. Water often enough to keep the plant evenly moist (generally, water when the surface of the soil feels dry). Each flower generally lasts about five to seven days, and the plants remain in bloom for two to three weeks.

After flowering is finished, only water it when the soil in the pot feels dry when you stick your finger in it. If you displayed the plant in a location other than a bright window, move the plant to a window. There is no need to fertilize.

### CARE AFTER THE HOLIDAYS

Come spring, you may continue to grow your plant indoors or move it outside for the summer. When placed outside, the plants may receive some morning sun, but shade for most of the day is preferred.

Don't keep the soil too moist. The result of excessive watering is root rot; the most common reason people end up killing these plants. You can help reduce the chances of overwatering by growing your plants in loose, fast-draining potting soil rich in organic matter. Fertilize your plant with your favorite slow-release or soluble fertilizer following label directions.

These plants prefer to be potbound (remember, they live with their roots confined to small pockets of organic matter in their natural habitat). Only repot your plant if it is no longer stable in the pot it currently is growing in and tends to constantly fall over. Then, choose a pot only slightly larger than the one in which it was growing. To help with the stability of these sometimes-top-heavy plants, you can choose to grow them in heavier clay pots rather than plastic, although either works well.

### GETTING THEM TO BLOOM

Holiday cactuses are triggered to bloom by long nights more than 12 hours in length and/or chilly nighttime temperatures below 65 degrees. You can create this environment by leaving or placing your plant outside in late September when it will receive naturally long nights (do not place the plant in a location where porch lights, flood lights or street lights shine on it) and chilly nighttime temperatures in October and early November. Bring the plant inside if nighttime temperatures will



AS PART of a mission emphasis, some 30 members of Maplewood 1st Baptist Church treated Johnson Bayou children to crafts and snacks at the Johnson Bayou Community Center on Sunday, November 30. The group will be back on December 14 for more fun and fellowship. (Photo by Juanita Sandifer.)

# Tips given on how to have safe and joyous holiday

Building to mitigate the impacts of coastal hazards - such as hurricane storm surge and subsidence - will be the focus of a public workshop scheduled for Dec. 8 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Carnegie Memorial Library, 411 Pujo Street, Lake Charles. The workshop is open to the public and hosted by the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program.

"It is up to us, as individuals and local governments, to take the lead in protecting our lives and property and to establish resilient and sustainable communities through our decisions on where and how to build," said Jim Wilkins, director of the Louisiana Sea Grant Law & Policy program.

"The techniques to be discussed at the workshops can be implemented by local governments as well as individuals without dependence on state or federal governments. In other words, we're talking about taking a 'self-help' approach," said Wilkins, who will be leading the meetings.

Copies of the Louisiana Coastal Hazard Mitigation Guidebook, on which the workshops are based, will be available at both meetings. The 250-page book - which examines issues from zoning and building siting to construction methods and legal issues - is free.

An electronic copy of the book can be downloaded from the Sea Grant Law & Policy Program Web site ([www.lsu.edu/sglegal](http://www.lsu.edu/sglegal)), or a copy can be ordered by contacting Jessica Schexnayder, 105 Sea Grant Building, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA 70803.

Please include a check or money order for \$5 when

fall below 40 degrees.

Beginning about September, allow the soil to dry out more between waterings and stop fertilizing. When you begin to see little buds forming at the tips of the branches, water often enough to keep the soil evenly moist but don't keep it constantly wet.

Move the plant indoors when the buds are about an eighth-inch long, and place it in a window for display. If the branches are pendulous and hang down, boost up the pot so the branches hang gracefully.

the use of property to mitigate hazards.

"The intent of the guidebook is to present basic strategies that can help planners, managers and property owners in coastal communities better prepare for and recover from hurricanes," said Wilkins.

Since its establishment in 1968, the Louisiana Sea Grant College Program has worked to promote stewardship of the state's coastal resources through a combination of research, education and outreach programs critical to the cultural, economic and environmental health of Louisiana's coastal zone.

Louisiana Sea Grant, based at Louisiana State University, is part of the National Sea Grant College Program, a network of 32 programs in each of the U.S. coastal and Great Lakes states and Puerto Rico.

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# Pumpkin Perfect Oatmeal Cookies

(Makes 18 servings)

Ingredients:  
1 pkg. (17.5 oz.) oatmeal cookie mix  
1/2 cup Libby's® 100% Pure Pumpkin  
3 tablespoons vegetable oil  
1 large egg  
1 cup sweetened dried cranberries, raisins or nuts (optional)

Preheat oven to 375° F. Combine cookie mix, pumpkin, oil and egg in large bowl. Stir in dried cranberries, if desired. Drop by rounded teaspoonfuls, about 2 inches apart, onto ungreased baking sheets.

Bake for 10 to 12 minutes or until lightly browned and set in centers. Cool on baking sheets for 1 minute; remove to wire racks to cool completely.

Nutrition Facts Per Serving:  
100 cal, 5 g total fat (2.5 g sat fat), 15 mg chol, 90 mg sodium, 12 g carbo, 1 g fiber, 1 g pro, 10% Daily Value vitamin A, 0% Daily Value vitamin C, 2% Daily Value iron, 0% Daily Value calcium.

For more easy pumpkin snack and recipe ideas, visit [VeryBestBaking.com/Libbys](http://VeryBestBaking.com/Libbys).



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**Legals**  
 Cont. from Page 9

Priola Jr., Mr. Don Scimeni, Mr. Carey Vercher, Mr. Timothy White and Mr. Randy LeBlanc.

Mrs. Shannon Trahan called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Hurricane Ike Damage, Insurance information and Recreation Center Status.

A motion was made by Mrs. Christine Storm seconded by Mrs. Khristy Trahan and carried to move action items 1-3 to bottom of the agenda.

Mr. David Moss presented the board with his pictures and his inspection of the Recreation Center and Community Center Properties. Mr. Moss stated that we need to get all remaining equipment that was installed and the Electrical and Air units that were down and put in storage as soon as possible. The Recreation Center was at 98% complete when the storm hit and would have been ready to open in 2-3 weeks. The Board asked Mr. Moss to have Priola continue on with the changes to Propane at the community center.

Mr. Nickey Priola and Mr. Don Scimeni updated on insurance information. Adjuster has been out, waiting on report. Priola will submit one invoice for August and September payments which will be the last. The Board requested an affidavit from Priola stating that all sub-contractors have been paid in full.

Mr. Randy LeBlanc spoke about the FEMA (Hurricane Rita) information. After all versions have been done we should have the entire Recreation Center project covered. We should start receiving reimbursements soon.

A motion was made by Mrs. Christine Storm seconded by Mrs. Khristy Trahan and carried to retain supervisors and maintenance man as part time help in the clean-up effort.

Ms. Christen Trahan discussed the directors duties and what is expected now. Ms. Trahan will not be returning to Johnson Bayou but will continue on in the Director position until further notice and a replacement can be found. Meeting dates were discussed and decided to have floating dates depending on Board members availability.

A motion was made by Mrs. Christine Storm seconded by Mrs. Khristy Trahan and carried to accept the minutes from the August 2008 meeting.

A motion was made by Mrs. Christine Storm seconded by Mrs. Khristy Trahan and carried to review and pay the bills for the month.

A motion was made by Mrs. Christine Storm seconded by Mrs. Khristy Trahan and carried to accept review of the financial statements.

There being no further business to discuss on a motion by Mrs. Khristy Trahan seconded by Mrs. Christine Storm and carried; the meeting was adjourned at 1:42 p.m. A regular meeting will be scheduled at a later date and location.

APPROVED:  
 /s/ Christine Storm  
 RUN: Dec. 4 (D 11)

**Caramel Filled  
 Chocolate  
 Cookies**

- 1 cup butter, softened
  - 1 cup white sugar
  - 1 cup packed brown sugar
  - 2 eggs
  - 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
  - 2 1/4 cups all-purpose flour
  - 1 teaspoon baking soda
  - 3/4 cup cocoa powder
  - 1 cup chopped walnuts
  - 1 tablespoon white sugar
  - 48 chocolate-covered caramel candies
- Beat butter until creamy. Gradually beat in white sugar and brown sugar. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Combine flour, baking soda, and cocoa in another bowl. Gradually add to butter mixture, beating well. Stir in 1/2 cup of the walnuts. Cover and chill at least two hours.
- Preheat oven to 375°F. Combine remaining 1/2 cup walnuts with 1 Tablespoon sugar. Divide the cookie dough into four parts. Work with one part at a time, keeping the others refrigerated until needed.
- Divide each part into 12 pieces. Quickly press each piece of dough around a chocolate-covered caramel. Roll into a ball. Dip the tops into the sugar mixture. Place sugar side up, two inches apart on greased baking sheets. Bake for eight minutes in preheated oven. Let cool for 3 - 4 minutes on the baking sheets before moving to wire racks to cool completely.



**Be aware of dangers in  
 the home at Christmas**

Holiday decorations, like candles, lights and Christmas trees, add a joyous and festive mood to the holiday season. But when these decorations are not used properly, they can cause fires, injuries and death.

Each year, hospital emergency rooms treat about 12,500 people for falls, cuts, shocks, and burns due to incidents involving faulty holiday lights, dried-out Christmas trees and other holiday decorations.

Christmas trees are involved in about 300 fires annually, resulting in 10 deaths, 30 injuries and an average of about \$10 million in property damage and loss. In addition, there are more than 13,000 candle-related fires each year, which result in 140 deaths and \$205 million in property loss.

Candles add beauty and tradition to the holidays, however, when left unattended or within a child's reach, burning candles can turn your celebration into tragedy.

Following a few simple safety tips can help prevent holiday decoration-related fires.

The following tips are to make your holidays safer.

**CHRISTMAS TREES**  
 When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree is more resistant to burning.

A fresh tree will stay green longer, and will be less of a fire hazard than a dry tree. To check for freshness, remember:  
 A fresh tree is green.  
 Fresh needles are hard to pull from branches.  
 When bent between your fingers, fresh needles do not break.

The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin. When the trunk of a tree is bounced on the ground, a shower of falling needles shows that tree is too dry.

Place tree away from fireplaces, radiators and other heat sources. Heated rooms dry trees out rapidly, creating fire hazards.

Cut off about two inches of the trunk to expose fresh wood for better water absorption. Trim away branches as necessary to set tree trunk in the base of a sturdy, water-holding stand with wide spread feet. Keep the stand filled with water while the tree is indoors.

Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.

**ARTIFICIAL "SNOW"**  
 Artificial snow sprays can irritate lungs if inhaled. To avoid injury, read container labels; follow directions carefully.

**LIGHTS**  
 Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been UL tested for safety. The UL listing will be located on the attached tag, located on the light strand. This indicates conformance with safety standards. Use only lights that have plugs containing fuses.

Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Throw out damaged sets. Always replace burned-out bulbs promptly with the same wattage bulbs.

If using an extension cord, make sure it is rated for the intended use. Do not overload extension cords.

Turn off all lights on trees and other decorations, and also all outdoor lights when you go to bed or leave the house. Lights could short and start a fire.

Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted. To avoid this danger, use colored spotlights above or beside a metallic tree.

Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use.

When installing outside lights, stay away from power lines.

Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage.

Use only insulated staples (not nails or tacks) to hold strings in place or run strings of lights through hooks (available at hardware stores).

Use caution when remov-

ing outdoor lights. Never pull or tug on them - this could cause stress on the connections that could create a fire hazard.

Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to protect against electric shock.

Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can also be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.

**CANDLES AND OTHER DECORATIONS**  
 Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree.

Keep burning candles within sight and away from trees, decorations and wrapping paper.

Always use non-flammable candle holders, and place them out of reach of children and pets.

In homes with small children, take special care to avoid sharp or breakable decorations, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children who could swallow or inhale small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.

Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over.

**TRIMMINGS**  
 Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials. Wear gloves while decorating with spun glass ("angel hair") to avoid irritation to eyes and skin.

Choose tinsel or artificial icicles or plastic or non-leaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.

**FIREPLACES**  
 Clean your fireplace chimney before using the first time each winter. The buildup of chimney soot can start a fire.

Always burn "clean burning" wood in the fireplace. Other types of wood can cause sparks from the chimney, which can catch your roof on fire.

Do not burn paper in the fireplace. Paper also causes sparks from the chimney and can catch your roof on fire.

Paper can also ignite suddenly and burn intensely, resulting in a flash fire.

Use a screen in front of your fireplace at all times a fire is burning in order to prevent embers from entering the room.

Before lighting any fire, remove all greens, boughs, papers, and other decorations from around the fireplace area. Check to see that flue is completely open.

**GENERAL RULES FOR HOLIDAY SAFETY**  
 Keep matches, lighters, and candles out of the reach of children.

Avoid smoking near flammable decorations.

Make an emergency plan to use if a fire breaks out anywhere in the home. See that each family member knows what to do. Practice the Plan!

Avoid wearing loose clothing near open flames - such as those of a fireplace, stove, room heaters or candles.

**ROOM HEATERS**  
 Never plug a space or room sized heater into an extension cord. Always plug into an outlet that is protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).

Never use a heater close to curtains, bedding, paper, or any other type of flammable materials.

Some older space heaters could omit carbon monoxide fumes. These fumes are often referred to as a "silent killer". Install carbon monoxide detectors and smoke detectors in your home and check them often to ensure they are operational. The batteries should be changed when the time changes in the spring and fall.

**REMEMBER: PLAN FOR SAFETY!**  
 There is no substitute for common sense. Look for and eliminate potential danger spots near candles, fireplaces, heaters, Christmas trees, and electrical connections.



**An 'easy mark' was hobos  
 way of finding welcome**

**5 ways to  
 cut costs**

(EDITOR'S NOTE-- Here is another story from the prolific pen (or more accurate-computer) of Curt Iles of Dry Creek in his Creekbank Stories. He has just written a new book, *The Write Before Christmas*, which can be ordered for \$10 by going to his web page: [www.creekbank.net](http://www.creekbank.net).)

By CURT ILES



Curt Iles

"I'm a thousand miles from anywhere, waiting for a train."

"Waiting for a Train" by Jimmy Rodgers

To call someone an "easy mark" is normally not a compliment. We use it in the context of taking advantage of someone and associate it with weakness. I have a story that explains the term's origin. I'll let you-the reader-decide if being an easy mark is a compliment or not.

Thanksgiving and then Christmas are good times to think about the "G words" of gratitude and generosity. They're two of the best words in the English dictionary. Here's the story that describes those words in action:

The Great Depression of the 1930's was a traumatic time in our nation's history. This is evidenced by how deeply affected those who lived through were. My grandfather would sadly shake his head as he gravely described the challenges of supporting a young family during that tough decade.

During these hard years, families and individuals were uprooted and roamed the country desperate for work. My mother, who was a young child during this time, told of sitting at the window of a moving train and seeing a hobo, hanging onto the side of her car, nodding his head as he passed by.

Most hoboes were single men riding the rails looking for work. As the slowing trains neared a station, the hoboes would jump off and find the nearby gathering places called "hobo jungles."

A story is told of an older woman who lived along the tracks in a small Midwestern town. Although alone and poor, this woman had a reputation for giving food to anyone in need. In the language of hoboes, she was an "easy mark."

Hoboes, using a piece of chalk or coal, would mark the gatepost or nearby fences of homes where handouts were readily available. This woman's gatepost was well decorated with a large X. She was used to the knocks at her back door, and actually looked forward to the opportunity to share, even though what she had was meager.

One winter, just before Christmas, a strong storm blew through her town. The pelting rain seemed to be coming down sideways, and it soon turned to snow as conditions deteriorated.

The woman watched through her window as the slowing trains passed and wet hoboes jumped off, trotting toward shelter from the storm. However, to her surprise and dismay, all of them passed by her gate, oblivious to the cups of hot soup awaiting them.

This disturbed her greatly as she watched the nearby tracks. When another group of men struggled by without stopping, she grabbed her umbrella and stepped out into the cold rain.

At her gatepost, holding

(ARA) - With the brisk air settling and the end of the year quickly approaching, many people are eagerly turning their focus towards holiday preparation and excitement for the wonderful things to come. From gatherings with friends and family to building a snowman in the first snowfall, traditional activities will begin anew. But one tradition that may bring more anxiety than excitement this season is the anticipation of holiday spending and gift giving.

It should come as no surprise to most that economists are predicting significantly less spending this holiday season than in previous years. Facing growing financial concerns, a lack of confidence in the economy, and rising food and fuel costs, many shoppers will be much more conservative with their holiday spending.

But there is good news that should turn that "Bah Humbug" attitude around. Fortunately, there are plenty of ways a savvy shopper can avoid the squeeze to ensure that the "season of giving" remains just as it is.

Here are five simple ways to cut back on costs this holiday season without having to cut back on giving:

- \* **Be Thrifty!**  
 Believe it or not, it is possible to get top of the line items without paying top of the line prices. Seek gifts from consignment shops and thrift stores. Savvy shoppers can find everything from designer clothes and shoes to home appliances and furniture, all for highly discounted prices. Often these items can be found brand new.
- \* **Stay Alert.**  
 Just because a deal seems too good to be true doesn't mean it is. Utilize retailer incentives and in-store promotions. Offers such as free shipping, buy-one-get-one-free or "the more you spend the more you save" are great ways to save excess funds, particularly when buying multiple gifts at once or when buying in bulk.
- \* **Shop Smart for Practical Items**  
 Buying gifts during the holidays is often just the tip of the iceberg. It's the food and other everyday items that add up too. The good news is you don't have to skimp on quality to save on cost. Shop smart and choose brands that offer great performance at a lower price. Take batteries, for instance. Americans will spend more than \$600 million on them this holiday season. But there's an easy way to save. Rayovac batteries are proven to last just as long as the top two brands but cost less. So that remote control car for Johnny may cost an arm and a leg, but the batteries don't have to.
- \* **Create a List.**  
 This is probably the easiest and yet most underestimated tool there is - create a list and stick to it. Creating a list accomplishes a couple of very important things: it helps shoppers stay organized and focused, and it serves as a good tool for managing a budget. Take extra time upfront to carefully think through who will be on the list and how the set budget will break out overall. It will make shopping a breeze and ultimately alleviate unnecessary stress along the way. And isn't that the best gift of all?
- \* **Shop Online.**  
 Online shopping has many benefits beyond avoiding crowded stores and checkout lines. A number of online couponing sites now make it quicker and easier than ever to shop online and save big. Shoppers can often browse by their favorite store or category to find coupon codes for discounted prices, free shipping and more. And you can achieve this from the comfort of home, where the gas prices don't matter.

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# Catholic Calendar

Vol. 35, No. 1

A PAGE DEVOTED TO LOCAL CATHOLIC INTERESTS † THE DIOCESE OF LAKE CHARLES † LCDIOCESE.ORG

December 6, 2008

## "Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you."

Jeremiah 1:5

(Please note: The following is a statement issued by Francis Cardinal George, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, that was endorsed unanimously by the body of Bishops at its November Meeting.)

"If the Lord does not build the house, in vain do its builders labor; if the Lord does not watch over the city, in vain does the watchman keep vigil." (Psalm 127, vs. 1)

The Bishops of the Catholic Church in the United States welcome this moment of historic transition and look forward to working with President-elect Obama and the members of the new Congress for the common good of all. Because of the Church's history and the scope of her ministries in this country, we want to continue our work for economic justice and opportunity for all; our efforts to reform laws around immigration and the situation of the undocumented; our provision of better education and adequate health care for all, especially for women and children; our desire to safeguard religious freedom and foster peace at home and abroad. The Church is intent on doing good and will continue to cooperate gladly with the government and all others working for these goods.

The fundamental good is life itself, a gift from God and our parents. A good state pro-

protects the lives of all. Legal protection for those members of the human family waiting to be born in this country was removed when the Supreme Court decided Roe vs. Wade in 1973. This was bad law. The danger the Bishops see at this moment is that a bad court decision will be enshrined in bad legislation that is more radical than the 1973 Supreme Court decision itself.

In the last Congress, a Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) was introduced that would, if brought forward in the same form today, outlaw any 'interference' in providing abortion at will. It would deprive the American people in all fifty states of the freedom they now have to enact modest restraints and regulations on the abortion industry. FOCA would coerce all Americans into subsidizing and promoting abortion with their tax dollars. It would counteract any and all sincere efforts by government and others of good will to reduce the number of abortions in our country.

Parental notification and informed consent precautions would be outlawed, as would be laws banning procedures such as partial-birth abortion and protecting infants born alive after a failed abortion. Abortion clinics would be deregulated. The Hyde Amendment restricting the federal funding of abortions would be abrogated. FOCA would have lethal consequences for prenatal

human life.

FOCA would have an equally destructive effect on the freedom of conscience of doctors, nurses and health care workers whose personal convictions do not permit them to cooperate in the private killing of unborn children. It would threaten Catholic health care institutions and Catholic Charities. It would be an evil law that would further divide our country, and the Church should be intent on opposing evil.

On this issue, the legal protection of the unborn, the bishops are of one mind with Catholics and others of good will. They are also pastors who have listened to women whose lives have been diminished because they believed they had no choice but to abort a baby. Abortion is a medical procedure that kills, and the psychological and spiritual consequences are written in the sorrow and depression of many women and men. The bishops are single-minded because they are, first of all, single-hearted.

The recent election was principally decided out of concern for the economy, for the loss of jobs and homes and financial security for families, here and around the world. If the election is misinterpreted ideologically as a referendum on abortion, the unity desired by President-elect Obama and all Americans at this moment of crisis will be

impossible to achieve. Abortion kills not only unborn children; it destroys constitutional order and the common good, which is assured only when the life of every human being is legally protected. Aggressively pro-abortion policies, legislation and executive orders will permanently alienate tens of millions of Americans, and would be seen by many as an attack on the free exercise of their religion.

This statement is written at the request and direction of all the Bishops, who also want to thank all those in politics who work with good will to protect the lives of the most vulnerable among us. Those in public life do so, sometimes, at the cost of great sacrifice to themselves and their families; and we are grateful. We express again our great desire to work with all those who cherish the common good of our nation. The common good is not the sum total of individual desires and interests; it is achieved in the working out of a common life based upon good reason and good will for all.

Our prayers accompany President-elect Obama and his family and those who are cooperating with him to assure a smooth transition in government. Many issues demand immediate attention on the part of our elected 'watchman.' (Psalm 127) May God bless him and our country.

### Prayer to End Abortion

Lord God, I thank you today for the gift of my life,  
And for the lives of all my brothers and sisters.  
I know there is nothing that destroys more life than abortion,  
Yet I rejoice that you have conquered death  
By the Resurrection of Your Son.  
I am ready to do my part in ending abortion.  
Today I commit myself  
Never to be silent,  
Never to be passive,  
Never to be forgetful of the unborn.  
I commit myself to be active in the pro-life movement,  
And never to stop defending life  
Until all my brothers and sisters are protected,  
And our nation once again becomes  
A nation with liberty and justice  
No just for some, but for all,  
Through Christ our Lord. Amen!

### Diocese seeking applicants for Superintendent of Schools

LAKE CHARLES – The Catholic Diocese of Lake Charles is seeking a Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the 2009-2010 school year.

The Superintendent, appointed by the Bishop, is the executive director of the Office of Catholic Schools and the chief administrative officer of the elementary and secondary schools in the Diocese.

Applicants for the position must possess the following qualifications: Must be a practicing Catholic for whom loyalty to Christ, His people, and the Church are of primary importance; and hold a philosophy of education consistent with Catholic conviction; must possess a master's

degree, preferably in education, from an approved university; must have at least five years of teaching or other school administrative experience, preferably in a Catholic school; and demonstrate leadership abilities in past or present educational assignments.

The salary for this position will be negotiable, based on the experience of the candidate.

The deadline for application is December 31, 2008.

For further information or to obtain application forms, contact: Rev. Whitney Miller, Ph.D., LPC, Secretary for the Ministry of Christian Formation, 411 Iris Street, Lake Charles LA 70601, (337) 439-7400.



Members of the Barbe High School baseball team gave up part of their Thanksgiving holiday this year to do some sprucing up of the grounds of the Chancery Office of the Diocese of Lake Charles.



Deborah R. Frank

## Deborah Frank named President of St. Louis

LAKE CHARLES – Deborah R. Frank, a graduate of McNeese State University, will become President of St. Louis Catholic High School on January 1, 2009.

Ms. Frank, who has taught in parochial and public schools in Louisiana and Texas, most recently served as the Director of Federal Grants and Special Programs in the Crosby (Texas) Independent School District. From 2000 to 2007, she was principal of Crosby High School, having previously served as the school's assistant principal from 1998-2000.

She taught Science and English at Kingswood (Texas) High School in the Humble Independent School District and prior to that she was the seventh and eighth grade English Language Arts teacher at our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic School in Alexandria, La.

After earning a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from McNeese, she earned a Master of Education in Secondary Education and Educational Leadership from Stephen F. Austin University in Huntsville, Tx.

"I believe that my training and experience will allow me to meet the job responsibilities of President of St. Louis Catholic High School in a manner that the St. Louis community deserves and expects," Frank said. "I am pleased to accept this opportunity knowing in my heart that this is the work that I am now being called to perform."

"St. Louis has many fine traditions and a reputation for being a school in which students excel in every activity they undertake," she said. "It will be a privilege to serve in such an outstanding school and I am anxious to meet with the students, faculty, staff, and other stakeholders who have been instrumental in St. Louis' enormous success."

"I look forward to becoming a part of the St. Louis Catholic High School family as we approach the many challenges facing high schools today," Frank continued. "I will embrace, promote, and advance the mission and work of the school so that St. Louis will continue to be a place where excellent teaching and learning is the norm rather than the exception."

She holds a Texas Educator Certificate as a mid-management administrator for grades Pre-K through 12 as well as teaching certificates for Secondary Biology and English, both in grades 6 through 12. Frank also has certification for Professional Development and Appraisal System through the Instructional Leadership Development Program.

Frank is a member of the Association for

Supervision and Curriculum Development, National Association of Secondary School Principals, Texas Association of Secondary School Principals and Union Pacific Principals Partnership.

While at Crosby High School she facilitated instruction and programming that consistently resulted in average SAT scores being the highest of surrounding Class 4A high schools. She also wrote the application for and received a grant for Building Inclusive Schools program and acquire a Junior ROTC army unit that won highest honors in its first federal inspection during the spring of 2007.

Also during her tenure at Crosby, Frank initiated the Principal's Student Advisory Board, began "Meet the Principal" nights and implemented "Capturing Kids' Hearts" program and Teen Leadership classes.



Mrs. Genevieve Guzzino, left, speaks with Bishop Glen John Provost, center, and Rev. Ruben Buller, right, at the recent Msgr. Irving A. DeBlanc Remembrance Dinner. Proceeds from the event, held at Harlequin Steak and Seafood, benefited the 2008-2009 Bishop's Services Appeal.

## Office of Black Catholics sets Day of Reflection

LAKE CHARLES – The Office of Black Catholic Ministry of the Diocese of Lake Charles will sponsor a Day of Reflection and Action for African American Catholics on Saturday, Dec. 13, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Louis Catholic High School.

A follow-up gathering from the National Black Catholic Congress X in 2007, the morning will allow those attending to reflect and propose action steps on the eight National Black Catholic Congress principles of Spirituality, Parish Life,

Catholic Education, Youth and Young Adults, Social Justice, Africa, Racism and HIV/AIDS.

Black Catholics from throughout the Diocese are invited to attend the Day of Reflection so that they may go back to the respective parishes and plan individual action steps on a given principle which can be implemented in their own faith community.

For information please contact Deacon Edward Lavine at 439-7436.

## 40 Hours Devotion to be held in Eastern Deanery

LAKE CHARLES — Churches in the Eastern Deanery of the Diocese of Lake Charles host the 40 Hours Devotion to the Blessed Sacrament promoting vocations to the priesthood and the religious life during December.

St. Lawrence Church in Raymond will be the site from 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 8 through 11 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 10.

The parishes of St. John Vianney in Bell City and St. Charles Borromeo in Fenton along with the chapel of St. John the Evangelist in Lacassine will be the sites for the remainder of the month. Dates and times for St. John Vianney are at 7:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 16 continuing through Wednesday, Dec. 17. The Devotion at St. John the Evangelist Chapel will be

from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 18 and at St. Charles Borromeo from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Dec. 19.

### Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Friday, Dec. 12

LAKE CHARLES – The Most Reverend Glen John Provost will be the celebrant for the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe beginning at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 12, at St. Henry Catholic Church.

Concelebrating will be the Rev. Daniel Torres, pastor of St. Henry, and the Rev. Arturo Lozano, S.J., Director of Hispanic Ministry, as well as other priests of the Diocese.

### Did you know...

With Germany's invasion of Poland on Sept. 1, 1939, the conflict that was World War II began. The U.S. came into the war on Dec. 7, 1941 following the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. The war ended officially on Sept. 2, 1945 after six years of conflict. During those six years three parishes were established by The Most Reverend Jules Jeanmard, Bishop of Lafayette, in the Southwest Louisiana area that would become the Diocese of Lake Charles. The first was St. John Vianney Church in Bell City on Oct. 12, 1939 with Rev. Mathias J. Cramers as the founding pastor. On February 27, 1942, St. Joseph Church in Welsh was established under the care of priests of the Society of St. Joseph, who remained there until 2004. Rev. John F. O'Connell, S.S.J. was the first pastor. St. Margaret of Scotland Church was the third parish to be established during the war years, coming into being on July 16, 1945 with Rev. George Bodin serving as the founding pastor.

The year 1955 saw two parishes established by three Bishops. Do you know which parishes they were? Find out in our next Catholic Calendar.

The offices of the Diocese of Lake Charles will be closed Monday, Dec. 8 for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. They will reopen on Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 8:30 a.m.

## Cougar sightings in La. becoming fairly common

(Editor's Note--Cougar sightings in Louisiana has become fairly common in recent months as the following news release indicated. Two of the animals were sighted in the Gum Cove area of northern Cameron Parish shortly after Hurricane Ike.)

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) and Bossier City Police Department (BPPD) responded to a call on Sunday, Nov. 30 that a cougar had been spotted in a residential neighborhood in Bossier City.

LDWF's efforts to immobilize the 125-pound cat with a tranquilizer dart were not immediately successful and BPPD officers shot the animal to minimize the possible threat to public safety.

The state's third documented cougar sighting in three months was witnessed by neighbors in Bossier City, as well as law enforcement officers, state biologists and news media representatives. The cougar was discovered in the same neighborhood where a black bear was treed three years ago. That incident resulted in capture and relocation of the bear.

"This neighborhood is situated close to the Red River," said Maria Davidson, LDWF Wildlife Division. "Animals will utilize forested corridors along rivers and streams to cover great distances between forest woodlots."

LDWF staff worked with the BPPD to secure the area for the public's safety in advance of biologists' efforts to tranquilize the animal. When the 125-pound cat was hit with the tranquilizer dart, it was startled and began to move within the tree where it was situated. BPPD officers then shot the cougar out of concern for public safety.

"Our standard procedure is to tranquilize the animal in a situation such as this and relocate it to ensure public safety as well as the welfare of the animal," said Davidson. "It simply did not work in this situation."

Dr. Jim Lacour, LDWF veterinarian, performed a necropsy on Monday to take DNA samples and uncover any clues to help determine if the cougar was a wild ani-

mal or possibly an animal that had been kept as a pet and then released.

"Currently, all indications are that this cougar was a wild, free ranging animal," Davidson reported. "A three-to four-year-old male cougar is within the most common age class to roam long distances in search of a new home range."

Photographic evidence submitted to LDWF in September verified the presence of cougars in the state. A Sept. 4 photo from Natchitoches Parish and an Allen Parish photo on Sept. 29, both from citizens utilizing trail cameras, may have captured the same cougar's image. It has not been determined whether or not the Bossier City cougar is that same animal.

Anyone holding a captive cougar in Louisiana must have a permit issued by LDWF, as captive cougars may compromise public safety. LDWF may issue permits to existing owners in the state in order to reduce difficulties associated with determining the validity of reported cougar sightings.

The mountain lion, cougar, panther or puma are names that all refer to the same animal. Their color ranges from lighter tan to brownish grey.

Cougars in Louisiana are protected under state and federal law. Penalties for taking a cougar in Louisiana may include up to one year in jail and/or a \$100,000 fine. Anyone with any information regarding the taking of a cougar should call LA Operation Game Thief, inc. at 1-800-442-2511. Callers may remain anonymous and may receive a cash reward.

To report verifiable sightings of cougars containing physical evidence such as photos, tracks and/or scat please call Maria Davidson at 948-0255 or the nearest LDWF Region office at: Minden, 318-371-3050; Monroe, 318-343-4044; Ferrville, 318-487-5885; Ferriday, 318-757-4571; Lake Charles, 491-2575; Opelousas, 948-0255; Baton Rouge, 225-765-2360.

For more information, please contact Maria Davidson, LDWF Wildlife Division, ph. 948-0255 or mdavidson@wlf.louisiana.gov



**TWO SPECIAL friends visited T-Mae Booth for the grand opening of Booth's grocery on Saturday, Katherine LaSalle, of Lafayette (left) and Laurie Cocharo of Englewood, Colo. (right) brought groceries to help stock the shelves of the Grand Chenier landmark.** (Photo by Cyndi Sellers.)

## Booth's grocery reopens in Grand Chenier Nov. 29

By CYNDI SELLERS

It was an Event with a capital E when T-Mae Booth re-opened her small country store in eastern Grand Chenier. Friends and relatives came from all over the parish, nearby parishes and even Colorado to help her celebrate at the Grand Opening held Saturday, Nov. 29.

Two ladies in particular made a special effort. Laurie Cocharo, of Englewood, Colorado, said T-Mae gave her son Dan, now 20, free sodas for 10 years, and she just had to be there for the re-opening. She worked for oil companies located in the area for those years and often brought Dan along. Mrs. T-Mae would never let him pay for a soda.

Laurie told T-Mae that if she would re-open her store, she would help her stock the shelves, and T-Mae remembered. So Laurie called another loyal patron, Katherine LaSalle, of Lafayette, for help. Katherine's two sons Thomas and Ormond, ages 14 and 11, helped Mom pick out items for the shelves. They knew the store well, having visited often when their dad Thomas had a duck camp nearby.

On Friday the two ladies and Katherine's sons priced the items and stocked the shelves. "We had a really fun, good day yesterday," Katherine said.

Banners were hung, a red ribbon tied to the posts, cake, cookies, and nostalgic old fashioned bottles of Coke put on ice. Then the company began to come. Through the morning the small store filled and overflowed into the residence behind. Duck hunters in camouflage wandered in and joined the throng. One neighbor came in to buy rice and stayed for the party.

A special moment came when Martin O. Miller III, a descendant of Grand Chenier pioneer Dr. Martin O. Miller, presented T-Mae with a framed photo of her store, taken in 1994, showing the old gas pumps everyone remembered.

The inscription on the back said, "Mrs. Booth, You are an amazing lady and a great inspiration to everyone in Grand Chenier. Every time I come to the country, I have to see my T-Mae. I know it has been a tough road since Hurricane Rita. We are all glad you rebuilt your store. It is a testament to your strength, which I truly admire."

The celebration was a small part of Cameron Parish's recovery, and a very big part of the Booth family, T-Mae's and Grand Chenier's recovery. The warmth of the small store filled with chattering people and duck hunters made everything seem possible. It was truly a joyous day.

## Mobile home regulations clarified by Police Jury

By CYNDI SELLERS

The Police Jury clarified its regulations regarding mobile home permits on Monday, in response to a Johnson Bayou resident's question. Ronald Castaneda asked why the school could get a permit for temporary trailers and he could not. It was explained that anyone who has an approved building plan for construction to take place in the near future can get a temporary mobile home permit. The owner must continue to show progress, however.

Castaneda said he was trying to rebuild his home in Johnson Bayou and needed to be on site daily, rather than in Grand Lake as he is now. He also said that when he went to the Disaster Recovery Center to request emergency housing on his site he was treated disrespectfully and asked "Why do you want a trailer? You know where you live. Why do you want to live there?"

He said, "I am building a good house. I don't want Johnson Bayou to be a camp. It is a good community, with good people, but it will be nothing but a camp if this keeps on."

Parish OEP Director Clifton Hebert urged people to go to the DRC or call FEMA and make sure their application requests temporary housing. He said many people, immediately after the storm, said they were living with friends or family and didn't need housing. If this has changed, people need to tell FEMA and they could get assistance to buy a trailer and bring it onto their property, Hebert said.

Hebert repeated his recent media statement that

there are 14 empty FEMA trailer spaces at Shandy Acres in Grand Lake, and lots of people still in motels. A meeting was to be held on Tuesday with FEMA to discuss the matter further.

Another FEMA meeting on Tuesday was to discuss the problems with the preliminary DFIRM maps, and how the V-zone designation will affect Cameron Parish. Both meetings were inconclusive, according to participants.

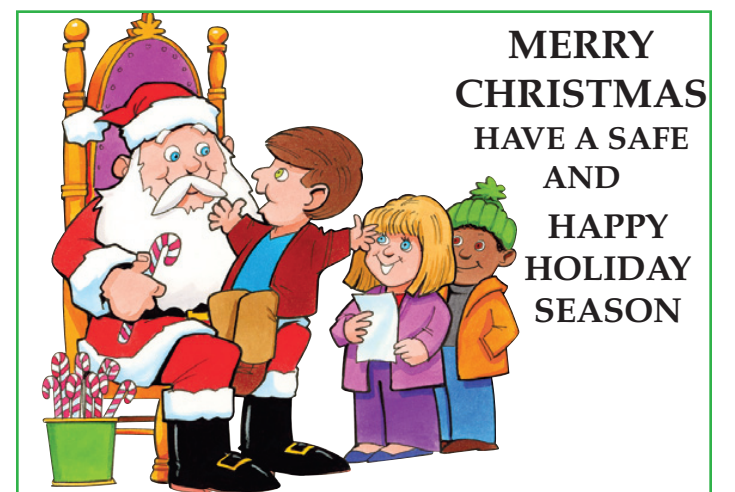
Hebert reported that the debris pickup on state highways is entering its second and final pass. The contractor plans to be finished before Christmas, after which the shoulder repair project can begin.

Jennifer Jones presented the Jury with a draft of proposed changes to the Flood Damage Prevention Ordinance. After extensive communication with FEMA, Jones was able to get preliminary approval to definitions of accessory and agriculture buildings. The full text is to be advertised, but will depend on FEMA approval.

Under the proposed ordinance changes, accessory building of 600 square feet will be allowed in A zones, and 100 square feet in V zones. Agriculture buildings are defined and will be allowed even in V zones under the proposal.

Owners of agriculture buildings must execute an agreement not to change the use of the building. It will be filed with the Clerk of Court and will be binding on future owners.

Jones also mentioned that she had discovered that owners of elevated homes may enclose 300 square feet underneath the building.



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